



MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

2001-2010

BOOK 14 | VOLUME 4

Executive Orders Part 4



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Fourteenth President of the Philippines
and Fourth President of the Fifth Republic.



MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

2001-2010

BOOK 14 | VOLUME 4
Executive Orders Part 4

Messages of the President Book 14: Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Volume 4 Part 4

Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office

<http://www.gov.ph>

<http://www.malacanang.gov.ph>

<http://www.pcdspo.gov.ph>

ISBN 978-621-8032-38-5

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Published exclusively by

The Presidential Communications Development
and Strategic Planning Office

Office of the President of the Philippines

3/F New Executive Building,

Malacañan Palace, San Miguel, Manila

Tel.: 736-0719, 736-0718

Fax no.: 736-6167

Website: <http://www.pcdspo.gov.ph>

Book design by the Presidential Communications
Development and Strategic Planning Office

Published in the Philippines.

The National Library of the Philippines CIP Data

Recommended entry:

Philippines. President (Arroyo: 2001-2010)

Messages of the President: Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2001-2010,
Book 14, Volume 4, Executive Orders Part 4 / Presidential Communication
Development and Strategic Planning Office. – Manila: Presidential
Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office, 2016.

pages; cm

ISBN 978-621-8032-38-5

Contents: vol. 1. Official Week and Month in Review – vol. 2.
Appointments and Designations – vol. 3. Historical Documents and
Papers – vol. 4. Executive Orders – vol.5. Administrative Orders – vol. 6.
Proclamations – vol. 7. Other Issuances – vol. 8. Cabinet Minutes.

1. Arroyo, Gloria Macapagal-, President – Philippines – 2001-2010.
2. Presidents – Messages – Philippines. 3. Philippines – Politics and
government – 2001-2010. I. Title.

The Messages of the President Book 14: Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Volume 4 Part 4 was compiled and published by the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office in May 2016 in Manila, Philippines.

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Volume 4 Part 4

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INTRODUCTION

As the President's chief message-crafting body, the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office (PCDSPO), is mandated to provide strategic communication leadership and support to the Executive Branch, its composite agencies, and instrumentalities of government.

The PCDSPO is also mandated to act as custodian of the institutional memory of the Office of the President. One of our projects is the continuation of the series of books called the Messages of the President, started in 1936 by Jorge B. Vargas, Executive Secretary to President Manuel L. Quezon. The series was a wide collection of executive issuances, speeches, messages, and other official papers of the President. The volumes were intended to serve as the definitive compilation of presidential documents. The series was continued until the Quirino administration, although the series for the Presidential administrations of Presidents Quezon, Roxas, and Quirino were never completed.

In 2010, President Benigno S. Aquino III ordered the revival of the series and the constitution of a complete set, covering all 15 presidential administrations. With pride, we continue what Vargas began.

We would like to extend our gratitude to our partners for without whose gracious cooperation, this project would have not been possible.

A note on organization: Each presidential administration's messages are in book form, compiled and subdivided into volumes. The books are as follows:

- Book 1: Emilio Aguinaldo
- Book 2: Jose P. Laurel
- Book 3: Manuel L. Quezon
- Book 4: Sergio Osmeña
- Book 5: Manuel Roxas
- Book 6: Elpidio Quirino
- Book 7: Ramon Magsaysay
- Book 8: Carlos P. Garcia
- Book 9: Diosdado Macapagal
- Book 10: Ferdinand E. Marcos
- Book 11: Corazon C. Aquino
- Book 12: Fidel V. Ramos
- Book 13: Joseph Ejercito Estrada
- Book 14: Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
- Book 15: Benigno S. Aquino III

Each book is subdivided into the following volumes:

- Volume 1: Official Weeks/Months in Review
 - Volume 2: Appointments and Designations
 - Volume 3: Historical Papers and Documents
 - Volume 4: Executive Orders
 - Volume 5: Administrative Orders
 - Volume 6: Proclamations
-

Volume 7: Other issuances

Volume 8: Cabinet minutes

We hope that this collection will be a useful and vital reference for generations to come.

PREFACE

On July 30, 2010, President Benigno S. Aquino III issued Executive Order No. 4, which effectively renamed what was previously called the Malacañang Museum into the Presidential Museum and Library (PML) and placed it under the supervision and control of the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office (PCDSPO). The PML is responsible for preserving, managing, and promoting the history and heritage of the Philippine presidency. It is the principal historical and artistic repository in support of the institution of the presidency, for the benefit of the Republic and the Filipino people. In partnership with the PCDSPO, which has pioneered the publication of the Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines as a web archive and information website, the PML has taken this mandate and placed it on the cutting edge of the information age.

Much has been done over the past years, under the administration of President Aquino III, to digitize executive issuances, speeches, letters, and other presidential papers; and publish them online. The project is not limited to a single administration, nor does it discriminate. This collection, published as databases, as well as print and e-publications, includes documents from the presidency of Emilio Aguinaldo to the current Aquino administration. This represents the government's allegiance to transparency, continuity, and the fostering of an informed citizenry, as well as an effort, in earnest, to preserve the institutional memory of the Presidency. All this was done not just for the posterity, but for the current generation and the ongoing task of nation building.

The PML are proud partners of the Official Gazette and PCDSPO team, to whom we made the collections available. We sincerely hope that this series will serve as a vital reference to educators, students, journalists, lawyers, historians, and the public at large.

FOREWORD

This is the fourth volume of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's official papers, which constitutes the 14th book of the Messages of the President series. The series was started in 1936 by Executive Secretary Jorge B. Vargas, during the first year in office of Manuel L. Quezon, the first President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines. This volume collects President Arroyo's Executive Orders, which provide for rules of a general or permanent character in implementation or execution of constitutional or statutory powers.

BOOK 14

PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was the fourteenth President of the Philippines and was the fourth President of the fifth Republic. She assumed office on January 20, 2001, serving the remainder of the term of her predecessor Joseph Ejercito Estrada. President Macapagal-Arroyo was re-elected to a full second term in May 10, 2004. She was President until June 30, 2010.

The Executive Issuances of President Macapagal-Arroyo began with Memorandum Circular No. 1 signed on January 30, 2001 and ended with Proclamation No. 2111 and Executive Order No. 910 which were both signed on June 29, 2010.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's documents were gathered from its official sources such as the Official Gazette of the Philippines; Malacañang Records Office's Book of Executive Issuances; SONA Technical Report; A Compilation of Selected Presidential Speeches of Her Excellency President Macapagal-Arroyo; Strong Republic: Selected Speeches of President Macapagal-Arroyo; and from the website archive.org.

The American Psychological Association (APA) style was used for the citation. The titles that have been provided by the researchers are enclosed in square brackets, considering that the exact wordings and its order were not verbatim from the document being described. Book titles are italicized while the speech titles are not. If in any case that the book title is the same as the title of the speech, it is transcribed in italics because it is the book title.

CONTENTS

Introduction	9
Preface	11
Foreword	13
Research Notes	15
Executive Orders	23
• Executive Order Nos. 550 - 551	26
• Executive Order Nos. 552 - 553	30
• Executive Order Nos. 554 - 555	33
• Executive Order Nos. 556 - 557	37
• Executive Order Nos. 558 - 559	40
• Executive Order Nos. 560 - 561	45
• Executive Order Nos. 562 - 563	50
• Executive Order Nos. 564 - 565-A	53
• Executive Order Nos. 566 - 567	61
• Executive Order Nos. 568 - 569	65
• Executive Order Nos. 570 - 571	69
• Executive Order Nos. 572 - 573	74
• Executive Order Nos. 574 - 575	78
• Executive Order Nos. 576 - 577	82
• Executive Order Nos. 578 - 579	86
• Executive Order Nos. 580 - 581	91
• Executive Order Nos. 582 - 583	95
• Executive Order Nos. 584 - 585-A	101
• Executive Order Nos. 586 - 587	107
• Executive Order Nos. 588 - 589	110
• Executive Order Nos. 590 - 591	117
• Executive Order Nos. 592 - 593	126
• Executive Order Nos. 594 - 595	131
• Executive Order Nos. 596 - 597	136
• Executive Order Nos. 598 - 599	141
• Executive Order Nos. 600 - 601	144
• Executive Order Nos. 602 - 603	148
• Executive Order Nos. 604 - 605	152
• Executive Order Nos. 606 - 607-A	157
• Executive Order Nos. 608 - 609	166
• Executive Order Nos. 610 - 611	171
• Executive Order Nos. 612 - 613	174
• Executive Order Nos. 614 - 615	181
• Executive Order Nos. 616 - 617	185
• Executive Order Nos. 618 - 619	190
• Executive Order Nos. 620 - 621	194

• Executive Order Nos. 622 - 623	201
• Executive Order Nos. 624 - 625-A	205
• Executive Order Nos. 626 - 627	211
• Executive Order Nos. 628 - 629	215
• Executive Order Nos. 630 - 631	221
• Executive Order Nos. 632 - 633	226
• Executive Order Nos. 634 - 635	230
• Executive Order Nos. 636 - 637	236
• Executive Order Nos. 638 - 639	239
• Executive Order Nos. 640 - 641	243
• Executive Order Nos. 642 - 643	248
• Executive Order Nos. 644 - 645	254
• Executive Order Nos. 646 - 647	258
• Executive Order Nos. 648 - 649-A	262
• Executive Order Nos. 650 - 651	267
• Executive Order Nos. 652 - 653	271
• Executive Order Nos. 654 - 655	279
• Executive Order Nos. 656 - 657	283
• Executive Order Nos. 658 - 659	286
• Executive Order Nos. 660 - 661-A	292
• Executive Order Nos. 662 - 663	298
• Executive Order Nos. 664 - 665	310
• Executive Order Nos. 666 - 667	314
• Executive Order Nos. 668 - 669	319
• Executive Order Nos. 670 - 671	322
• Executive Order Nos. 672 - 673	329
• Executive Order Nos. 674 - 675	333
• Executive Order Nos. 676 - 677	339
• Executive Order Nos. 678 - 679	343
• Executive Order Nos. 680 - 681-A	347
• Executive Order Nos. 682 - 683	355
• Executive Order Nos. 684 - 685	359
• Executive Order Nos. 686 - 687	363
• Executive Order Nos. 688 - 689	366
• Executive Order Nos. 690 - 691	371
• Executive Order Nos. 692 - 693	375
• Executive Order Nos. 694 - 695	377
• Executive Order Nos. 696 - 697	381
• Executive Order Nos. 698 - 699	383
• Executive Order Nos. 700 - 701	386
• Executive Order Nos. 702 - 703	390
• Executive Order Nos. 704 - 705-A	394
• Executive Order Nos. 706 - 707	399
• Executive Order Nos. 708 - 709	403
• Executive Order Nos. 710 - 711	410
• Executive Order Nos. 712 - 713	417

• Executive Order Nos. 714 - 715	421
• Executive Order Nos. 716 - 717	424
• Executive Order Nos. 718 - 719	428
• Executive Order Nos. 720 - 721-A	434
• Executive Order Nos. 722 - 723	441
• Executive Order Nos. 724 - 725	445
• Executive Order Nos. 726 - 727	450
• Executive Order Nos. 728 - 729	454
• Executive Order Nos. 730 - 731	457



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is all smiles as she picks fresh strawberry fruits together with her granddaughters Mikaela (second from right) and Eva (left) during her visit to a farm in Barangay Betag, La Trinidad, Benguet.



MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

2001-2010

BOOK 14 | VOLUME 4
Executive Orders Part 4



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Sixth State of the Nation Address delivered on July 24, 2006 at Batasang Pambansa, Quezon City.

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

An Executive Order provides for rules of a general or permanent character in implementation or execution of constitutional or statutory powers. The Executive Orders of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo began on February 20, 2001 with Executive Order No. 1 and ended on June 29, 2010 with Executive Order No. 910.

MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 550

**CREATING A PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS CONCERNS ARISING FROM
THE CONDUCT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL LICENSURE EXAMINATION
(NCLEX) FOR NURSES IN THE PHILIPPINES**

WHEREAS, the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for nurses is administered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) to determine those qualified to practice nursing in the United States at the entry level;

WHEREAS, the NCSBN has authorized the conduct of the NCLEX in Hong Kong, London and Seoul in 2004, and further established additional test centers in Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Mexico and Taiwan in 2006;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is the top origin country of foreign educated nurses taking the NCLEX, many of whom encounter financial hardship due to the cost of taking the examinations overseas;

WHEREAS, Filipino nurses constitute 83% of foreign-educated nurses practicing in the United States of America and contribute positively to the good image of the Philippines through their hard work, dedication and ethic of care;

WHEREAS, officers of the NCSBN visited the Philippines in March 2006 to assess the feasibility of establishing an NCLEX test center in the country;

WHEREAS, the conduct of the NCLEX in the Philippines will open opportunities for qualified yet less fortunate Filipino nurses to take the NCLEX locally, and the savings from not having to travel abroad to take said exam may be devoted to test preparation;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government fully supports the establishment of an NCLEX test center in the Philippines, and is prepared to provide assistance in terms of physical and examination security, as well as intellectual property protection through its agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the creation of a Presidential Task Force on National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

SECTION 1. Lead Agency. The Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), through its Chairman, shall be the lead agency in the NCLEX Task Force.

SEC. 2. Agency Support. The CFO shall be supported by the following agencies, represented by an official with rank not below that of an Assistant Secretary, namely: Intellectual Property Office (IPO), Philippine National Police (PNP), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), and the Philippine Nurses Association (PNA).

The CFO shall serve as the Secretariat of the Task Force.

SEC. 3. Functions and Responsibilities. The Task Force shall:

- a. Prepare an overall program that would consolidate existing government mechanisms to ensure protection of intellectual property rights and security of physical facilities of NCLEX test centers in the Philippines;

-
- b. Evaluate current procedures in resolving cases involving Filipino nurses and foreign nursing regulatory entities, and recommend proper measures to enhance existing grievance mechanisms;
 - c. Coordinate and liaise with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) in matters concerning the conduct of the NCLEX in the Philippines;
 - d. Investigate and take specific action on reports of fraud or any related act that will compromise the integrity of the examinations, as referred by the NCSBN;
 - e. Conduct consultations and information campaigns among nursing associations and other stakeholders to assist in preserving the integrity of local as well as foreign nursing licensure examinations conducted in the Philippines; and
 - f. Perform other functions that will ensure the smooth and successful conduct of NCLEX in the Philippines.

SEC. 4. Government Support. The Task Force is hereby authorized to call upon all other agencies whose assistance and support may be deemed necessary for the effective performance of all these functions, and said agencies are hereby directed to extend full cooperation thereto.

SEC. 5. Funding. The Task Force shall receive an initial funding of Ten Million Pesos (PhP 10,000,000.00) which will be sourced from the President's Social Fund in support of the projects, programs and activities related to its functions.

SEC. 6. Period of Existence. The Task Force shall cease to exist after March 31, 2010 after submitting a final report to the Office of the President of all its activities, including an accounting of all moneys received and disbursed.

SEC. 7. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done, in the City of Manila, this 31st day of JULY, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 551
CREATING A TASK FORCE ON THE REPATRIATION OF
OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) FROM LEBANON

WHEREAS, the continued conflict in Southern Lebanon has placed in danger the lives of our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Lebanon;

WHEREAS, while all preparations and evacuation plans are in place and have been going on smoothly, there is need to intensify the coordination in preparation for a worse case scenario;

WHEREAS, there is need to enlist in this effort the assistance not only of government agencies, but other foreign governments and international relief organizations as well;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Task Force* – There is hereby created a Task Force on the Repatriation of OFWs from Lebanon (Task Force) composed of the following:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Chair | - Vice President of the Philippines |
| Vice Chair | - Secretary of Foreign Affairs |
| Co-Vice Chair | - Secretary of Labor and Employment |
| Members | - Executive Secretary |
| | - Secretary of Health |
| | - Secretary of Budget and Management |
| | - Secretary of Social Welfare and Development |
| | - Press Secretary |

SECTION 2. *Powers and Functions* – The Task Force shall have, among others, the following functions:

- a) To coordinate the planning and implementation of plan of actions in the repatriation of OFWs and other Filipino nationals caught in conflict affected areas brought about by the fighting in Southern Lebanon;
- b) To coordinate with other governments, through their embassies and other international organizations like the Red Cross, Red Crescent, and the International Organization for Migration and enlist whatever assistance that they may be able to provide in the effort to bring our OFWs out of harms way.
- c) To ensure that all possible resources such as airplanes, sea vessels, vehicles, including funds are made available in a timely manner in order to effectively and efficiently undertake the transport of our OFWs out of the conflict affected areas and back to the Philippines;

- d) To involve the different diplomatic posts of the Philippines near the conflict affected area in the effort to bring our OFWs out of harms way.
- e) Through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), assist repatriated OFWs by way of reprocessing them for possible re-deployment elsewhere;
- f) Through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Health (DOH), assist arriving OFWs needing de-stress and medical attention.

SECTION 3. Support of Agencies – The Task Force may enlist the support of other agencies such as the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), the Office of the Presidential Middle East Preparedness Committee, the Office of the Special Envoy to the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Commission on Filipino Overseas.

SECTION 4. Secretariat – The Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Labor & Employment shall jointly provide technical and administrative support to the Task Force.

SECTION 5. Budget – There is hereby made available the amount of One Billion (P1,000,000,000) Pesos, Five Hundred Million (P500,000,000) coming from OWWA funds, and Five Hundred Million coming from funds to be identified by the Department of Budget and Management, that may be disbursed when needed for the repatriation of Filipinos from Lebanon, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause – All executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity -- This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 26th day of July, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 552

**TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OVER THE MT. PINATUBO
LOWLAND COMMUNITIES FROM THE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATING COUNCIL (HUDCC) TO THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY (NHA)**

WHEREAS, by operation of law, specifically Republic Act No. 7637 and Proclamation No. 1201, the Mt. Pinatubo Assistance, Resettlement and Development Commission, hereinafter referred to as Mount Pinatubo Commission (MPC) has expired on 31 December 2000;

WHEREAS, under Executive Order No. 269 dated 19 July 2000 and Executive Order No. 4 dated 5 March 2001, provisions were made to facilitate the winding-up activities of the MPC with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) designated as lead agency of the Commission to supervise the closure of MPC;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 6 issued on 20 March 2001 directed the transfer of resettlement functions and responsibilities over the Mt. Pinatubo lowland communities to the HUDCC;

WHEREAS, under Executive Order No. 54 dated 7 November 2001, the assets, records, funds, personnel, liabilities and responsibilities over the Mt. Pinatubo lowland communities were transferred to the Pinatubo Project Management Office (PPMO) attached to the HUDCC;

WHEREAS, estate management activities including award of housing units and issuance of titles to Mt. Pinatubo housing beneficiaries, and disposition of housing units to non-Pinatubo victims occupying units in said lowland communities including the corresponding collection of housing payments still need to be undertaken;

WHEREAS, estate management and collection fall within the mandated functions and powers of the NHA;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Transfer of the Administration of the Mt. Pinatubo Lowland Communities to the National Housing Authority (NHA). The administration and management of the Mt. Pinatubo lowland communities and all other functions performed by the Pinatubo Project Management Office (PPMO) under the HUDCC as provided under Executive Order No. 54 are hereby transferred to the NHA. The HUDCC and NHA shall execute a Memorandum of Agreement to cover the transfer of functions and turnover of all assets, liabilities and pertinent documents and records within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Order.

SECTION 2. Institution of Mechanisms for Reforms. NHA shall institute a mechanism wherein all the stakeholders concerned shall be consulted on the reforms to be instituted and provide the overall strategic framework for the completion of Mt. Pinatubo related tasks.

SECTION 3. Collection Program. A Collection Program shall be implemented to generate revenues from lots occupied by families not qualified as beneficiaries of the Mt. Pinatubo Lowland Communities and from institutional and commercial lots in resettlement sites.

SECTION 4. Establishment of a Trust Fund. The NHA, as project administrator, shall establish a Trust Fund for the Mt. Pinatubo lowland communities in accordance with existing rules and regulations. The Trust Fund shall be maintained as a separate account from other corporate accounts. All existing funds, funds released by the National Government as well as investments recovered and income earned from the operations of the Mt. Pinatubo lowland communities shall be deposited in the Trust Fund. Disbursements from the Trust Fund shall be utilized exclusively for the following purposes:

- a. Completion of the remaining work in the resettlement sites including surveys and titling;
- b. Project management and administration; and
- c. Settlement of obligations.

SECTION 5. National Government Funding. The National Government shall make available funds to the NHA to cover obligations under the Mt. Pinatubo operations incurred prior to the effectivity of the transfer of project administration to NHA.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 1st day of August, in the year of the Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 553
ESTABLISHING AN INFRASTRUCTURE MONITORING TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, there is a low absorptive capacity of the agencies implementing pump-priming projects, especially the infrastructure projects;

NOW THEREFORE I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

1. There is hereby established an Infrastructure Monitoring Task Force (Task Force) with the staff from the following agencies assigned full-time to the Task Force: the National Economic and Development Authority, the Presidential Management Staff (PMS), the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Transportation and Communication, the Department of Energy and the Export Development Council.
2. The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry is hereby invited to assign a representative to the Task Force.
3. The Director-General of the PMS shall be the head of the Task Force.
4. The Task Force shall take steps to speed up the implementation of projects as appropriate.
5. All previous issuances inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
6. This Executive Order takes effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, on this 1st day of August, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 554

DIRECTING ALL DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS, COMMISSIONS, AGENCIES, OFFICES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND/OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, TO IMPROVE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE COUNTRY'S EXPORT SECTOR BY ELIMINATING THE FEES AND CHARGES IMPOSED ON EXPORT CLEARANCES, INSPECTIONS, PERMITS, CERTIFICATES, AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, the country's fiscal condition calls for the creation and enhancement of opportunities that will generate revenue and spur further economic growth;

WHEREAS, the country's economic recovery program recognizes the role of exports in hastening the attainment of economic goals;

WHEREAS, the sustained increase in exports which posted an average growth rate of 6.5% between CYs 2001 and 2005 presents a strong potential for further economic growth;

WHEREAS, there is a need for concerted and collective effort between the government and the private sector to improve the competitiveness of the country's export sector;

WHEREAS, fees for inspection, commodity and export clearance, permits, certificates and other documentary requirements of government commodity offices and related agencies, including government-owned and/or controlled corporations, have been identified as among the factors that lessen the competitiveness of Philippine exports;

WHEREAS, the abolition of administrative fees and charges imposed on export-related permits and clearances from concerned government agencies and/or government corporations can facilitate export initiatives by reducing the number of steps and the processing time and doing away with the cost relative to such administrative and documentation requirements;

WHEREAS, such abolition involves only a negligible amount of revenues and will not adversely impact on the delivery of basic services by the affected government agencies and/or corporations;

WHEREAS, the scrapping of fees does not completely mean the total abolition of export commodity clearance requirements in keeping with international commitments and preservation of national interest as embodied under EO 1016, s. 1985;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Departments, bureaus, commissions, agencies and offices in the Executive Branch of the Government, including government-owned and/or controlled corporations and other instrumentalities of the government are hereby directed to eliminate the fees imposed on export-related permits and clearances except those imposed by specific laws;

SECTION 2. Departments, bureaus, commissions, agencies, offices and instrumentalities of the national government, including government-owned and/or controlled corporations, are likewise directed to submit to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), through the Export Development

Council (EDC), proposals on how export documentation procedures could be further streamlined to improve efficiency in export documentation;

SECTION 3. The provisions of special or general laws to the contrary notwithstanding, all export clearance requirements on Philippine commodity exports are hereby dispensed with, except only for the following:

1. Those required as a result of the existence of import quotas in other countries, such as sugar;
2. Those covering items which are banned for exports;
3. Those covering exports of logs, copper and coffee; and
4. Those covered by international agreements to which the Philippines is a signatory.

SECTION 4. The Department of Trade and Industry, through the Export Development Council, shall see to it that this Executive Order is effectively carried out;

SECTION 5. All executive and administrative orders/issuances, provisions of other laws, decrees, rules, regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly;

SECTION 6. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila, this 3rd day of **August**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 555
AMENDING SECTIONS 5(c) AND 11 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 3, S-2001,
DEFINING THE POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE FOR
GOVERNMENT'S COMPREHENSIVE PEACE EFFORTS

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 3, s-2001, was issued on 28 February 2001 defining the policy and administrative structure of the Government's Comprehensive Peace Efforts;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5(c), EO No. 3, s-2001, the Government Peace Negotiating Panel for talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (GPNP-MILF) was established to conduct negotiations, dialogues, and face-to-face discussions with the MILF;

WHEREAS, there is a need to respond to emerging contingencies in the on-going peace talks with the MILF by way of enabling the GPNP-MILF to integrate all existing activities and endeavors relating to the peace negotiations, and wield direct and effective control over the joint mechanisms established under the GRP-MILF peace process such as the Joint Coordinating Committees on the Cessation of Hostilities (JCCCH), the Local Monitoring Teams (LMTs), the International Monitoring Team (IMT) and the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group (AHJAG);

WHEREAS, there is equal need for the GPNP-MILF to provide the necessary support and assistance to mechanisms and processes established under the Rehabilitation and Development aspects of the GRP-MILF peace process such as the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA) and the Bangsamoro Leadership and Management Institute (BLMI);

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Section 5(c), EO No. 3, s-2001 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“c. **GOVERNMENT PEACE NEGOTIATING PANELS.** There shall be established Government Peace Negotiating Panels (GPNPs) for negotiations with different rebel groups, to be composed of a Chairperson and four (4) members who shall be appointed by the President as her official emissaries to conduct negotiations, dialogues, and face-to-face discussions with rebel groups.

The GPNPs shall each be provided technical support by a Panel Secretariat under the direct control and supervision of the respective Panel Chairman. They shall be authorized to hire consultants and to organize their own Technical Committees to assist in the technical requirements for the negotiations.

Furthermore, with respect specifically for talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the GPNP shall have the authority to establish such bodies and structures, including finance and administrative support units, to attain its mandate.

Upon conclusion of a final peace agreement with any of the rebel groups, the concerned GPNP shall be dissolved. Its Panel Secretariat shall be retained in the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) for the purpose of providing support for the monitoring of the implementation of the peace agreement.”

Sec. 2. Section 11, EO No. 3, s-2001 is hereby amended as follows:

“Section 11. Funding. The approved budget of the OPAPP, the National Program for Unification and Development Council and the National Peace Forum for the current year shall be the source of funds for the implementation of the comprehensive peace process for the year 2001. Appropriations for succeeding years shall be incorporated in the budget of the OPAPP and other agencies concerned.

The funds to cover the Miscellaneous and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) of the talks with MILF shall be sourced from the Office of the President and released directly to the GPNP-MILF Chairman. However, the funds to cover the Personnel Services (PS) of the GPNP-MILF and its Secretariat shall continue to be drawn from the approved PS budget of OPAPP.”

Sec. 3. All executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Order are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

Sec. 4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 3rd day of **August**, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 556

AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 473 AND REQUIRING THE EXPLORATION,
DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF CRUDE OIL FROM THE CAMAGO-MALAMPAYA
RESERVOIR TO BE UNDERTAKEN THROUGH BIDDING

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 473 tasked the Department of Energy (DOE) to pursue the immediate exploration, development and production of crude oil from the Camago-Malampaya Reservoir;

WHEREAS, transparency is a government policy;

WHEREAS, it is government policy to bid out projects unless only one qualified bidder emerges from a published invitation to bid;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. There shall be no “farm-in” or “farm-out” contracts awarded by any government agency, including the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC), including the contract for the exploration, development and production of crude oil from the Camago-Malampaya Reservoir.

Section 2. All government agencies, including the PNOC, shall follow a strict bidding procedure in forging partnership with interested parties, including the Camago-Malampaya Reservoir venture.

Section 3. The corporate identity and of any partner tapped by any government agency, including the PNOC, must be beyond question.

Section 4. The paid-up capital of any partner tapped by any government agency, including the PNOC, must clearly show financial capability to undertake the subject venture;

Section 5. No government agency, including the PNOC, may enter into a contract with a company registered in a jurisdiction known to be a haven for money laundering;

Section 6. All government agencies, including the PNOC, may award a contract, including the Camago-Malampaya Reservoir venture, only to a true principal group and not to a trader/broker.

Section 7. Any and all negotiations or arrangements entered into by any government agency, including the PNOC, which violate this Executive Order, shall be immediately discontinued or cancelled.

Section 8. All other executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof, including Executive Order No. 473, which are inconsistent with the provision of this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 9. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila, this 17th day of June, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 557
ESTABLISHING AN ANTI-RED TAPE TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, one of the strategic measures for global competitiveness in the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan is to reduce red tape in all government agencies to reduce transaction costs;

NOW THEREFORE I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by the power vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the Philippines, do hereby order:

1. There is hereby established an Anti-Red Tape Task Force (“Task Force”) with full-time members from the Presidential Management Staff, the Commission on Information and Communications Technology, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Export Development Council Secretariat, and the National Anti-Poverty Commission as members. The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry shall likewise be invited to send a representative who shall participate full-time in the activities of the Task Force.
2. The Secretary of Trade and Industry shall be the Chairman of the Task Force. There shall be a full-time operations officer coming from the Export Development Council Secretariat.
3. The Task Force shall handle the Anti-Red Tape Module of the forthcoming National Competitiveness Summit and shall be incorporated into the National Competitiveness Council to be established in the said Summit.
4. All executive issuances inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
5. This Executive Order takes effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, on the 8th day of August, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 558
REPEALING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 138 DATED AUGUST 10, 1999,
ENTITLED “DIRECTING GOVERNMENT ENTITIES INVOLVED IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF CREDIT PROGRAMS TO ADOPT THE CREDIT POLICY
GUIDELINES FORMULATED BY THE NATIONAL CREDIT COUNCIL”

I, **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Repeal of Executive Order No. 138, series of 1999. – Executive Order No. 138 dated August 10, 1999 is hereby repealed.

SECTION 2. Effectivity. - This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila, this 8th day of August, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 558-A
CLARIFYING THE OVERALL FRAMEWORK IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT
CREDIT PROGRAMS AS CONTEMPLATED UNDER E.O. 558 DATED 8 AUGUST 2006

I, **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law do hereby order:

Section 1. With reference to Executive Order No. 558 dated 8 August 2006 repealing Executive Order No. 138, dated August 10, 1999, the following directives clarifying the overall framework in the implementation of government credit programs are hereby promulgated:

1. Credit programs to be implemented under the auspices of EO 558 shall support the poverty alleviation thrusts of the government and shall focus only on the municipalities and barangays currently identified by the People's Credit and Finance Corporation (PCFC) as areas where there are no identified and available participating financial institutions (PFIs) such as banks, cooperatives and non-governmental organizations that serve the needs of the poor and the marginalized sectors of the economy (to be subsequently referred to as "unserved areas").
2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall immediately implement and provide the necessary credit assistance and other support services in the unserved areas:
 - a. The livelihood support program to be provided by DSWD shall include social preparation and capacity building activities such as business development services to assist the targeted clientele to access financial assistance from PFIs at the soonest possible time.
 - b. The DSWD shall provide livelihood credits based on interest rates comparable to those charged by Quedancor.
 - c. The DSWD shall endeavor to simplify loan documentation and processes to ensure fast and timely approval of proposals and disbursement of proceeds.
 - d. In complementing the livelihood support program of DSWD, the PCFC shall continuously exert all efforts in identifying and providing support to potential PFIs that will express interest and are willing to operate and provide the necessary financial services in the unserved areas.
 - e. The PCFC shall monitor DSWD's livelihood support program and shall submit periodic reports to the National Anti-Poverty Commission.
3. All other credit programs by government non-financial agencies (GNFAs) and government owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) shall require specific approval by the President of the Philippines.
4. GNFAs and GOCCs are directed to continuously provide proactive support and technical assistance to enable micro and small enterprises to become viable and sustainable.

Section 2. All orders, rules, regulations and issuances as parts thereof inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed, or modified accordingly.

Section 3. This Executive Order shall take effect upon its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila, this 27th day of October, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 559
CREATING THE METRO ILOILO-GUIMARAS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (MIGEDC)

WHEREAS, Section 14, Article X of the Philippine Constitution provides that “the President shall provide for regional development councils or other similar bodies composed of local government officials, regional heads of departments, and other government offices, and representatives from non-governmental organizations within the regions for purposes of administrative decentralization to strengthen the autonomy of the units therein and to accelerate the economic and social growth and development of the units in the region”;

WHEREAS, Section 33, Article 3, Chapter 3 of the Local Government Code provides that “local government units may through appropriate ordinances, group themselves, consolidate, or coordinate their efforts, services, and resources for purposes commonly beneficial to them”;

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Iloilo Development Council (MIDC) was created through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) dated 9 February 2001 by the City of Iloilo, based on voluntary, consensus-based and collaborative approaches in integrated area development that is focused on six areas of collaboration, namely: Basic Services Delivery, Environmental Management, Public Safety and Security, Land Use Management, Infrastructure Development, and Economic Promotion and Development;

WHEREAS, the Guimaras-Iloilo City Alliance (GICA) was also similarly created through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) entered into by Iloilo City and the Province of Guimaras on 22 May 2005 to effect mutually beneficial economic development with special focus on tourism and infrastructure development with special focus on road and port systems improvement;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Santa Barbara, which hosts the new Iloilo Airport of international standards, has similarly recognized the importance of inter-modal transportation links and tourism development to overall economic development;

WHEREAS, the Local Government Units involved recognize the need to collaborate on certain specific areas in order to speed-up the economic and tourism development of the area;

WHEREAS, the National Government has recently unveiled during the 6th State of the Nation Address of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, a massive investment program to sustain economic growth, speed progress to all areas of the country through the Mega-Region Economic Development Strategy and propel the Philippines to the “First World” status and through such development strategy, make funds available through the Medium-Term Public Investment Program (MTPIP);

WHEREAS, for Central Philippines, where Western Visayas belongs, tourism has been identified as an inherent competitive edge and priority area for investments;

WHEREAS, the success of the Mega-Region Economic Development Strategy will depend highly on the effectiveness of the inter-local government cooperation that are already existing and functioning within the regions which can support the developmental thrusts of the National Government;

WHEREAS, as existing and functional regional work alliances, the MIDC and GICA may be further merged and expanded to help realize the goals and objectives of the Mega-Region Economic Development Strategy through economies of scale.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Metro Iloilo-Guimaras Economic Development Council (MIGEDC), hereinafter referred to as the Council, is hereby created. The Council shall formulate, coordinate and monitor programs, projects and activities for the acceleration of the economic growth and development of the City of Iloilo, the Municipalities of Oton, San Miguel, Pavia, Leganes, and Sta. Barbara, all of the Province of Iloilo, and the entire Province of Guimaras, in support to the Mega-Region Economic Development Strategy of the National Government.

SECTION 2. The Council shall be composed of the following:

- a. Mayor, Iloilo City as Chairperson
- b. Provincial Governor, Province of Guimaras as Co-Chairperson
- c. Mayor, Municipality of Pavia, Iloilo
- d. Mayor, Municipality of San Miguel, Iloilo
- e. Mayor, Municipality of Oton, Iloilo
- f. Mayor, Municipality of Leganes, Iloilo
- g. Mayor, Municipality of Sta. Barbara, Iloilo
- h. President, League of Municipalities, Province of Guimaras

SECTION 3. In the discharge of its functions, the Council shall ensure appropriate coordination with the Regional Development Council (RDC) VI and other relevant local development councils.

SECTION 4. All departments, bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the national government, including government-owned or controlled corporations and government financial institutions, are hereby directed to extend their full assistance to the Council in support of its programs, projects and activities.

SECTION 5. All executive orders, rules, regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 28th day of August, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 560
REACTIVATING THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA) was created pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 690, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 1703;

WHEREAS, SPDA, an agency attached to the Office of the President, was deactivated by virtue of Executive Order No. 149 dated 18 November 2002;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the present Administration to foster and accelerate the balanced growth of the Southern Philippines for national economic, social and political stability; and

WHEREAS, under Section 77 of Republic Act No. 9336, also known as the “General Appropriations Act of 2005”, the President may direct changes in the organization and key positions in any department, bureau or agency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Reactivation of SPDA.*— The SPDA is hereby reactivated effective immediately. It shall have a lean and professional organization, and shall be under the oversight of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP).

SECTION 2. *Functions of the Board.*— The Board shall have, among others, the following functions:

- a. Approve policies and implementing guidelines needed to accomplish the purpose and objectives of SPDA;
- b. Determine and approve the organizational structure, staffing pattern and pay scales of SPDA, its officers and employees subject to existing rules and regulations;
- c. Review and approve annual work and financial plan and budget of SPDA;
- d. Establish levels of authority and responsibilities of the Administrator and other officers of SPDA;
- e. Submit an annual report to the President;
- f. Perform other tasks as may be assigned by the President.

The Chairman shall preside at the meetings of the Board. Except for the Administrator, who is *ex-officio* Vice-Chairman of the Board, no member of the Board shall perform day-to-day administrative or operations work.

SECTION 3. *Catch-Up Plan.*— SPDA shall be the implementing arm for the economic catch-up plan on the implementation of the 1996 GRP-MNLF Peace Agreement.

SECTION 4. *Coordination with ARMM.*— SPDA shall properly coordinate with the Autonomous Regional Government (ARG) in the implementation of projects within the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

SECTION 5. *Funds and Assets.*— Section 6 of Executive Order No. 229 dated 21 July 2003 is hereby repealed. The SPDA shall coordinate with the head of Special Order No. 1391 dated 3 August 2004 for the return to SPDA of its assets and funds.

SECTION 6. *Support of Other Agencies.* – SPDA may request assistance from such other agencies as may be necessary, including, the Commission on Audit (COA) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC), to assist in the implementation of this Executive Order.

SECTION 7. *Budget.*— The amount of Ten Million Pesos (P10M), to be taken from the President’s Contingency Fund, is hereby made available for the reactivation of SPDA. Subsequent budget shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* — All executive orders, rules, regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 29th day of August, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). [*Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 561
FORMATION OF THE “SUPER” REGIONS AND MANDATE OF THE
SUPERREGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CHAMPIONS

WHEREAS, for the first time in almost a decade the Philippine national budget is under control, the Philippine Government is lowering its deficit and raising unprecedented amounts of revenue;

WHEREAS, the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan commits to presenting a balanced budget by 2010;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government’s economic managers commit to presenting the balanced budget by 2008;

WHEREAS, the infrastructure initiatives in the Medium Term Public Investment Program (MTPIP) will cost over One Trillion Pesos (P1,000,000,000,000);

WHEREAS, the investment program under the MTPIP will be funded by Government revenues generated by tax reforms, government-owned and controlled corporations and government financial institutions, as well as partnerships and other support from private sector and Philippines’ bilateral and multilateral partners;

WHEREAS, the MTPIP forms part of the Government’s second phase of economic reforms under which it is investing in better infrastructure and services to create jobs and improve living standards;

WHEREAS, the most sweeping element of said phase is to restructure the Philippine economy into “super” regions to bolster the natural advantages of five distinct subeconomies regions of the country;

WHEREAS, said “super” regions need to be built up to create opportunity across the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The geographical units shall be grouped into the following “super” regions:

- a) Northern Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, to be composed of Regions I, II, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), and the northern part of the provinces of Aurora (north of Baler), Tarlac (north of Tarlac City), Nueva Ecija (north of Cabanatuan City), and Zambales (north of Subic);
- b) Luzon Urban Beltway, to be composed of the National Capital Region (NCR), Region IV-A, the provinces of Bulacan, Bataan, Pampanga, Mindoro, Marinduque, and the southern parts of the provinces of Tarlac, Zambales, Aurora and Nueva Ecija;
- c) Central Philippines, to be composed of Regions V, VI, VII, and VIII, and the provinces of Romblon, Palawan, and Camiguin, and the Island of Siargao;
- d) Agribusiness Mindanao, to be composed of Regions IX, X except Camiguin, XI, XII, Caraga except Siargao, and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao; and
- e) Cyber Corridor, which traverses the above “super” regions from Baguio to Cebu to Davao.

The above-mentioned groupings neither supersede current political boundaries nor alter the regional development councils as established by existing laws and issuances.

SECTION 2. The “super” regions shall have the following primary, though not exclusive, development themes:

- a) Northern Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle - Agribusiness
- b) Luzon Urban Beltway - Globally competitive industrial and service center
- c) Central Philippines - Tourism
- d) Agribusiness Mindanao - Agribusiness
- e) Cyber Corridor - Information and communication technology and knowledge economy.

SECTION 3. Each “super” region shall have a designated Development Champion whose mandate is to:

- a) Serve as catalyst for development and prime advocate of the strategic development theme in his area;
- b) Ensure the implementation of the priority programs and projects identified in the 2006 State of the Nation Address and the undated MTPIP, in close collaboration with the concerned local government units, national agencies and other partners in development, and undertake the necessary interventions to help ensure that these are completed on time and at a lowest cost to government;
- c) Work out operational policies and remedial actions to ensure that the priority programs and projects are completed on schedule and at a lowest cost to government;
- d) Submit a monthly report to the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) on the overall accomplishments of project implementation, issues and problems identified, and recommend solutions pursuant to Item (c) above.

SECTION 4. The Development Management Champions are hereby authorized to call on the National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Budget and Management, the PMS and the Infrastructure Monitoring Task Force for any assistance in the performance of their mandate, including any information or data requirement. They may also call on any other government agency, including government owned or controlled corporations, and government financial institutions, for assistance as they may deem necessary to ensure the timely and cost-effective implementation of the priority projects.

All Regional Development Councils shall assist the Development Champions in the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

The Office of the Press Secretary, Philippine Information Agency and Government mass media shall provide the necessary assistance in communicating the development endeavors in the “super” regions to key constituencies and the international community.

SECTION 5. The Development Champions are the following:

- a) North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle - PMS Director-General Arthur Yap;
 - b) Luzon Urban Beltway - Subic-Clark Alliance for Development Chairman Edgardo Pamintuan;
 - c) Central Philippines - Secretary of Tourism Joseph Ace Durano; Secretary Cerge Remonde shall be the Cabinet Officer for Regional Development of region VII;
 - d) Agribusiness Mindanao - Presidential Adviser for the Peace Process Jesus Dureza;
 - e) Cyber Corridor - Commission on Information and Communication Technology Chairman Ramon Sales.
-

SECTION 6. The operational requirements of the Development Champions shall be supported by the budget of the agencies that they head.

SECTION 7. This Executive Order takes effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 19th day of August, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 562
REINSTATING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM, DEPARTMENT OF
THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS
MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 325, s. 1996, Reorganization of the Regional Development Councils (RDC), provides that Regional Directors of agencies represented in the NEDA Board shall be regular members of the RDC;

WHEREAS, Administrative Order 148, s. 2006, provides for the reconstitution of the NEDA Board which excluded the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Department of Health (DOH);

WHEREAS, the membership of DAR, DILG and DOH are critical in the pursuit of socio-economic development across the regions and hence, they should remain members of the RDC;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Regional Directors of DAR, DOH and DILG shall remain members of the RDC.

SECTION 2. All previous issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **28th** of **August**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 563

AMENDING SECTION 2 AND REPEALING SECTION 4 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 230
S. 2000 AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A
“SUPER GREEN LANE FACILITY” AT THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 230 dated 31 March 2000 authorized the establishment and maintenance of a “Super Green Lane (SGL) Facility” at the Bureau of Customs;

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Executive Order No. 230 provides that the Secretary of Finance and the Commissioner of Customs shall issue rules and regulations to effectively implement this Order;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to immediately implement the “Super Green Lane Facility” at the Bureau of Customs.

NOW, THEREFORE I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Executive Order No. 230 dated 31 March 2000 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“**SECTION 2.** Trust Fund Creation. - A Super Green Lane Trust Fund is hereby created and established which shall be sourced from the service fee charged for every shipment of qualified importers utilizing the Super Green Lane Facility. A Permanent Committee created under Section 45, Chapter 5, Book VI of Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, shall monitor and evaluate the activities of the balances of the Trust Fund.”

SECTION 2. Section 4 of Executive Order No. 230 dated 31 March 2000 is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. Failure to follow the directives in Executive Order No. 230, as herein amended, within thirty (30) days from effectivity of this Order shall subject concerned officials to administrative sanctions pursuant to existing laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 26th day of September, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 564
RESTRUCTURING THE INFRASTRUCTURE MONITORING SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Executive Order (E.O.) 376 s. 1989 signed by former President Corazon C. Aquino, as amended by E.O. 93 s. 1993 signed by President Fidel V. Ramos, established the Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES) to expedite project implementation;

WHEREAS, E.O. 553 s. 2006 established an Infrastructure Monitoring Task Force headed by the **Director-General** of the Presidential Management Staff with assigned personnel from the National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Transportation and Communications, Department of Energy and the Export Development Council. The Task Force invited a representative from the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

WHEREAS, The President's State of the Nation Address (SONA) 2006 stressed the importance of infrastructure;

WHEREAS, after a diligent review of E.O. 376, 93 and 553, there is a need to rationalize the RPMES and the Infrastructure Monitoring Task Force;

WHEREAS, the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) is not involved in project approval and implementation and can independently monitor and provide timely and pro-active information on needed actions to ensure accomplishment of the Medium Term Public Investment Program (MTPIP) 2006-2010, especially the SONA commitments, within the purview of good governance and transparency;

NOW, THEREFORE I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby order the restructuring of the RPMES into the Infrastructure Monitoring Task Force Projects Performance Tracking System (Pro-Performance System) of the PMS.

Section 1. Goals and Objectives. The "Pro-Performance System" shall have as its goal to accelerate the delivery of the MTPIP 2006-2010, especially the SONA commitments. More specifically, the "Pro-Performance System" shall achieve the following objectives under the three-dimensional core elements and indicators (physical development performance and quality, financial performance, timeliness):

- a) To provide independent and up-to-date constructive information on the overall status of project implementation based on the three-dimensional core elements and indicators, and identify areas, issues and concerns that need solutions/interventions by Lead Implementing Agencies and/or Project Management Offices.
- b) To reinforce public-private partnership and collaboration in monitoring said government projects.
- c) To supplement current government monitoring efforts at all levels for more synergistic independent findings.
- d) To ensure public awareness and participation through information campaigns and advocacy programs; likewise to provide government access to reliable information from the private sector for constructive decision-making.

Section 2. Scope and Coverage. The Pro-Performance System shall monitor the MTPIP 2006-2010, especially SONA commitments, major infrastructure projects, health and education programs and other projects that the President may identify. These projects may be funded from the national government, external fund sources, the government-owned or controlled corporations, the government financial institutions, and/or the private sector through Build-Operate-Transfer or its variants.

Section 3. Organizational Structure. The Pro-Performance System shall be lodged with the PMS, which shall serve as the Secretariat of the Infrastructure Monitoring Task Force.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a representative of the intelligence community shall be invited by the President to advise the Infrastructure Monitoring Task Force and the PMS.

Section 4. Funding. Funds needed shall be made available by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) from the 5% contingency fund or 1% of the total project cost of the monitored projects.

Section 5. Separability Clause. All orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this E.O., including E.O. 376 s. 1989 and E.O. 93 s. 1993, are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

Section 6. Effectivity. This E.O. shall take effect immediately.

28 August 2006

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 564-A

AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 564 AND REDEFINING THE MECHANISMS TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THE “PRESIDENT’S PRO-PERFORMANCE SYSTEM”

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 564 s. 2006, entitled “Restructuring the Infrastructure Monitoring System” was issued by the President to restructure the Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System in the Infrastructure Monitoring Task Force Projects Performance Tracking System (Pro-Performance System) of the Presidential Management Staff;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to institutionalized the “President’s Pro-Performance System” in order to ensure the diligent delivery and fast-tracking of the government’s projects, in measurable terms with transparency and thorough documentation, especially those identified under the President’s 2006 State of the Nation Commitments;

WHEREAS, there is vital necessity to ensure delivery of government’s programs and projects with transparency especially foreign-assisted projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in my by the Constitution, do hereby order the amendment of Executive Order 564 to redefine the organizational, operational and administrative mechanisms under the Infrastructure Monitoring Task Force Projects Performance Tracking System (Pro-Performance), without prejudice to maintaining its goals, objectives, scope and coverage.

Section 1. Implementing Structure – The Infrastructure Monitoring Task Force Performance Tracking System shall simply be called the Pro-Performance Tracking System. A Pro-Performance Team shall be created to implement this Pro-Performance System. The Pro-Performance team shall be composed of a Steering Committee, Independent Support Groups, a Pro-Performance Coordination Office, to be supported by the reorganized monitoring units of the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) and designated monitors of the Office of the President and line agencies.

- 1.1. Steering Committee.** A Steering Committee composed of relevant officials, heads of agencies and private sector and civil society representatives hall be established for a transparent implementation of the President’s Pro-Performance System with the following membership:

Chairperson – Private sector representative
Vice-Chairperson – Director General, PMS

Members:

Representative, Non-Government Organization
Representative, Business and Youth Sectors
Representative, Media
Representative, Church/Religious Sector
Representative, International Development Organization (of Filipino descent)

- 1.2. **Independent Groups.** Independent bodies such as the Procurement Transparency Group of the Government Procurement Policy Board and advocacy groups shall assist the Steering Committee.
- 1.3. **Secretariat.** The monitoring units of the PMS shall be reorganized as the Pro-Performance Coordination Office, which shall act as the Secretariat of the Pro-Performance system to coordinate its implementation.
- 1.4. **Support Monitors.** The monitoring support for the Pro-Performance Team shall be extended by the monitoring units of the Office of the President, the Cabinet Secretary, the National Economic and Development Authority, the Super-Region Champions and other relevant line agencies.
- 1.5. **Concerned Agencies and Super Region Champions.** Regular project monitoring and evaluation shall be undertaken by the concerned government agencies and instrumentalities in coordination with the respective Super Region Development Champions.

Section 2. Monitoring Systems Integration – The Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System and the Overseas Development Assistance Monitoring System shall be consolidated and integrated to form the Presidents' Pro-Performance Tracking System. As such, the National Computer Center shall assess, evaluate, redesign and establish the Information Strategic Systems Plan for the Pro-Performance Tracking System within two (2) months from the effectivity of this Order. Moreover, the system must be ISO-compliant within one (1) year upon data initialization.

Section 3. Operations Manual – The Secretariat shall prepare the Pro-Performance System Operations Manual within 30 days from the effectivity of this Order. The same shall be approved by the Steering Committee.

Section 4. Reports – The Secretariat through the Steering Committee shall submit monthly progress reports with photo-documentation to the Office of the President and reports required by the President from time to time.

Section 5. Funding and Equipment – Initial operations budget One Million Pesos shall be made available by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). For the continuous office operation, the DBM shall establish a Trust Fund out of the one percent (1%) of total project cost of the monitored projects to be sourced from the contingency fund component. The proceeds shall defray operational and administrative expenses, including out-source of information and communication technology equipment and systems, monitoring, advocacy and legal consultancy requirement, including intelligence information sourcing and evaluation; subject to government accounting and auditing rules and procedures.

Section 6. Separability Clause – All orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this EO, including EO 376 s.1989, EO 93 s 1993, EO 553 s 2006 and EO 564 s. 2006 are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

Section 7. Effectivity – This EO shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 1st day of March, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 565

**ATTACHING THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT FOR GENERAL DIRECTION AND COORDINATION**

WHEREAS, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) was created pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 8981, otherwise known as the PRC Modernization Act of 2000;

WHEREAS, Section 3 of RA No. 8981 provides that the PRC shall be attached to the Office of the President for general direction and coordination;

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) is mandated, under Section 2 (1), Chapter 1, Title VII, Book III of Executive Order (EO) No. 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, to optimize the development and utilization of the country's manpower resources;

WHEREAS, the DOLE is in a better position to exercise oversight functions over the PRC;

WHEREAS, Section 20, Chapter 7, Title I, Book III of EO No. 292 grants the President residual powers to reorganize the Executive Branch of government.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby attach the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) for general direction and coordination.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 11th day of September, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 565-A

AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 565, SERIES OF 2006, BY DEFINING THE ADMINISTRATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION (PRC) AND DELEGATING THE PRESIDENTIAL POWER OF CONTROL OVER THE PRC TO THE SECRETARY OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

WHEREAS, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) is an agency of government under the Executive Department that, pursuant to Section 17, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution, is under the control of the President of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 565, dated September 11, 2006, transferred the oversight functions of the Office of the President over PRC to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), attaching the PRC to DOLE for general direction and coordination;

WHEREAS, the President retains the power of control over the PRC;

WHEREAS, the President sees it fit to delegate to the Secretary of Labor and Employment, as the President's alter-ego, her control powers over the PRC.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) shall remain attached to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) for general direction and coordination. The Secretary of Labor and Employment shall additionally have supervision and control of the PRC and shall exercise jurisdiction over it in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 7, 8, and 9 of Book IV of Executive Order (EO) No. 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987.

SEC. 2. The DOLE Secretary shall have the authority to:

- (a) Generally oversee the operations of the PRC and to insure that it is managed effectively, efficiently and economically, but without interference with day-to-day activities.
- (b) Require the submission of reports and cause the conduct of management audit, performance evaluation and inspection to determine compliance with policies, standards and guidelines of the DOLE.
- (c) Take such action as may be necessary for the proper performance of official functions, including rectification of violations, abuses and other forms of maladministration.
- (d) Review and pass upon budget proposals, but may not increase or add to them.

Except with respect to any quasi-judicial function of the PRC, the DOLE Secretary shall also have the authority to:

- (a) Act directly whenever a specific function is entrusted by law or regulation to the PRC.
- (b) Direct the performance of duty or restrain the commission of acts.
- (c) Review, approve, modify or reverse acts and decisions of the PRC or its officials.
- (d) Determine priorities in the execution of plans and programs.
- (e) Prescribe standards, guidelines, plans and programs.

SEC. 3. All executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 9th day of October, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 566

**DIRECTING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TO REGULATE THE
ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF REVIEW CENTERS AND SIMILAR ENTITIES**

WHEREAS, the State is mandated to protect the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all, pursuant to Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution;

WHEREAS, the State has the obligation to ensure and promote quality education through the proper supervision and regulation of the licensure examinations given through the various Boards of Examiners under the Professional Regulation Commission;

WHEREAS, the lack of regulatory framework for the establishment and operation of review centers and similar entities, as shown in recent events, have adverse consequences and affect public interest and welfare;

WHEREAS, the overriding necessity to protect the public against substandard review centers and unethical practices committed by some review centers demand that a regulatory framework for the establishment and operation of review centers and similar entities be immediately instituted;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the Higher Education Act of 1994, created the Commission on Higher Education, which is best equipped to carry out the provisions pertaining to the regulation of the establishment and operation of review centers and similar entities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Establishment of a System of Regulation for Review Centers and Similar Entities. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in consultation with other concerned government agencies, is hereby directed to formulate a framework for the regulation of review centers and similar entities, including but not limited to the development, and institutionalization of policies, standards, guidelines for the establishment, operation and accreditation of review centers and similar entities; maintenance of a mechanism to monitor the adequacy, transparency and propriety of their operations; and reporting mechanisms to review performance and ethical practice.

SEC. 2. Coordination and Support. The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), Technical Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the various Boards of Examiners under the PRC, as well as other concerned non-government organizations like professional societies, and various government agencies, such as the Department of Justice (DOJ), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), and others that may be tapped later, shall provide the necessary assistance and technical support to the CHED in the successful operationalization of the System of Regulation envisioned by this Executive Order.

SEC. 3. Permanent Office and Staff. To ensure the effective implementation of the System of Regulation, the CHED shall organize a permanent office under its supervision to be headed by an official with the rank of Director and to be composed of highly competent individuals with expertise in

educational assessment, evaluation and testing; policies and standards development, monitoring, legal and enforcement; and statistics as well as curriculum and instructional materials development. The CHED shall submit the staffing pattern and budgetary requirements to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for approval.

SEC. 4. Indorsement Requirement. No review center or similar entities shall be established and/or operate review classes without the favorable expressed indorsement of the CHED and without the issuance of the necessary permits or authorizations to conduct review classes. After due consultation with the stakeholders, the concerned review centers and similar entities shall be given a reasonable period, at the discretion of the CHED, to comply with the policies and standards, within a period not exceeding three (3) years, after due publication of this Executive Order. The CHED shall see to it that the System of Regulation including the implementing mechanisms, policies, guidelines and other necessary procedures and documentation for the effective implementation of the System, are completed within sixty days (60) upon effectivity of this Executive Order.

SEC. 5. Funding. The initial amount necessary for the development and implementation of the System of Regulation shall be sourced from the CHED Higher Education Development Fund (HEDF), subject to the usual government accounting and auditing practices, or from any applicable funding source identified by the DBM. For the succeeding fiscal year, such amounts as may be necessary for the budgetary requirement of implementing the System of Regulation and the provisions of this Executive Order shall be provided for in the annual General Appropriations Act in the budget of the CHED. Whenever necessary, the CHED may tap its Development Funds as supplemental source of funding for the effective implementation of the regulatory system. In this connection, the CHED is hereby authorized to create special accounts in the HEDF exclusively for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this Executive Order.

SEC. 6. Review and Reporting. The CHED shall provide for the periodic review performance of review centers and similar entities and shall make a report to the Office of the President of the results of such review, evaluation and monitoring.

SEC. 7. Separability. Any portion or provision of this Executive Order that may be declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other provisions hereof, as long as such remaining provisions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

SEC. 8. Repeal. All rules and regulations, other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 8th day of September, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 567
DEVOLVING THE TAGUIG-PATEROS DISTRICT HOSPITAL FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO THE CITY OF TAGUIG

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7842 approved on 16 December 1994 established the Taguig-Pateros District Hospital under the administration and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH);

WHEREAS, under Republic Act No. 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, local government units (LGUs) shall exercise such powers and discharge such functions and responsibilities as are necessary, appropriate or incidental to efficient and effective provision of basic services and facilities which cover, among others, health services including secondary and tertiary hospitals;

WHEREAS, the President has the continuing authority to reorganize the offices under the executive department;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. The administration and supervision of Taguig-Pateros District Hospital is hereby devolved from the Department of Health to the City of Taguig.

Section 2. All laws, issuances, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 3. This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila, this 8th day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 568

TRANSFERRING THE NEW BILIBID PRISON FROM BARANGAY POBLACION,
MUNTINLUPA CITY, TO BARANGAY CUYAMBAY, MUNICIPALITY OF TANAY,
PROVINCE OF RIZAL

WHEREAS, it is the objective of the State to institute an improved national prison system which is conducive to the reformation and rehabilitation of inmates that will bring them back into the mainstream of society as useful citizens of the country;

WHEREAS, the New Bilibid Prison Reservation in Muntinlupa City was established in 1935 as one of the seven (7) penal institutions run by the Bureau of Corrections of the Department of Justice;

WHEREAS, there is a need to improve, expand and upgrade the facilities of the New Bilibid Prison and, at the same time, to relocate it to another site for practical purposes owing to the growing number of residential communities around the penal institution and the more strategic or higher developmental use planned by the government for its current site;

WHEREAS, Proclamation No. 1158, series of 2006, has reserved a parcel of land located in Barangay Cuyambay, Municipality of Tanay, Province of Rizal, with an area of Two Hundred Seventy (270) hectares, as the new site of the New Bilibid Prison;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Transfer of the New Bilibid Prison.* – The Department of Justice (DOJ) is hereby authorized and directed to carry out or cause the transfer of the New Bilibid Prison from its current site at Barangay Poblacion, Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila, to Barangay Cuyambay, Municipality of Tanay, Province of Rizal.

The DOJ shall be responsible for the performance and coordination of all tasks and activities related to the transfer of the New Bilibid Prison such as the preparation of the technical plans for the new site, the procurement of works and services, and the development and management of the new correctional facility, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and other concerned government agencies.

SECTION 2. *Funding.* - The funding requirements and arrangements for the transfer of the New Bilibid Prison facilities, including the funding sources thereof, shall be determined jointly by the DOJ, the DBM, and the DPWH.

SECTION 3. *Implementation.* - The DOJ and other concerned agencies shall prepare and finalize the implementation scheme and financing plan for the transfer of the New Bilibid Prison within six (6) months from the date of issue of this Executive Order.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity.* – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE, in the City of Manila, this 8th day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). [*Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 569
DEFINING THE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL KAPIT-BISIG LABAN SA KAHIRAPAN (KALAHİ)
CONVERGENCE GROUPS IN THE COMPREHENSIVE PEACE PROCESS AND
PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 3, series of 2001, affirms the government's commitment to implement a comprehensive peace process to address the internal armed conflicts in the country and their root causes, which include, among others, poverty and economic inequity;

WHEREAS, Memorandum Circular No. 33, issued by the Office of the President on 23 November 2002, institutionalizes the Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAHİ) as the government's overarching strategy for poverty reduction, and enjoins government agencies to observe multi-stakeholder and inter-agency convergence in all poverty reduction activities;

WHEREAS, by virtue of MC No. 33, Regional KALAHİ Convergence Groups (RKCGs), chaired by the Presidential Assistants (PAs), have been put in place as the focal mechanisms to coordinate anti-poverty efforts in the regions;

WHEREAS, the National Peace Plan, i.e. Chapter 14 of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan 2004-2010, calls for the mobilization and strengthening of KALAHİ in line with government's peace building and conflict prevention thrust, including rehabilitation and development of conflict-affected areas, as well as support to local peace initiatives of civil society groups and local government units (LGUs);

WHEREAS, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), which oversees and coordinates implementation of the comprehensive peace process, has established close linkage with PAs and the RKCGs as well as LGUs in pursuit of its mandate;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The RKCGs under the leadership of the PAs as "Regional Peace Advisors", shall serve as OPAPP's regional mechanism, with the following functions:

1. Assist the OPAPP in facilitating, coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the comprehensive peace process through programs and projects in the various regions;
2. Coordinate with the Regional Peace and Order Councils (RPOCs) and local government units (LGUs) to ensure complementation and convergence of peace efforts and initiatives at the regional and local levels;
3. Provide the venue/forum for sharing of experiences and best practices in peace building and conflict resolution among local government units and civil society groups, as well as for resolution of critical peace issues;

4. Serve as a quick-response mechanism to prevent the outbreak and/or escalation of armed conflicts, and address humanitarian needs and other urgent concerns arising from on-going hostilities, in coordination with other agencies;
5. Provide regular reports and recommendations to the President, through the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), on regional peace and conflict situations and the status of implementation of regional peace plans, programs and projects.

SECTION 2. The OPAPP, in coordination with the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), shall extend technical, capacity-building and mobilization support to RKCGs in the exercise of the abovementioned functions. For this purpose, OPAPP and NAPC shall ensure that sufficient funds shall be appropriated in their annual budgets for the provision of said support, as well as tap external sources of funds.

SECTION 3. All orders, issuances, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. Any provision hereof that may be declared in violation of existing laws shall in no way nullify the other provisions of this Executive Order.

SECTION 5. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 26th day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 570
INSTITUTIONALIZING PEACE EDUCATION IN BASIC EDUCATION
AND TEACHER EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the Philippines adheres to the policy of peace, equality, justice, and freedom, as enunciated in the 1987 Constitution;

WHEREAS, the attainment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace is a paramount agenda of the Government as spelled out in Executive Order No. 3, series of 2001, and the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan 2004-2010, as well as in support of the United Nation's Declaration and Programme of Action to promote and strengthen a culture of peace in the new millennium;

WHEREAS, EO No. 3 calls for building and nurturing a climate conducive to peace through peace advocacy and peace education programs;

WHEREAS, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) has established partnership with public and private schools and non-government organizations in promoting and implementing peace education;

WHEREAS, OPAPP and the Department of Education (DepEd) have developed elementary and high school peace education exemplars, which were launched in September 2005;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. The DepEd shall mainstream peace education in the basic formal and non-formal education curriculum, utilizing the existing peace education exemplars and other peace related modules, and enhance the knowledge and capability of supervisors, teachers and non-teaching personnel on peace education through the conduct of in-service trainings.

Section 2. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall introduce and mainstream peace education in teacher education.

Section 3. The OPAPP, in collaboration with DepEd and CHED shall strengthen linkage with private schools in promoting peace education.

Section 4. The OPAPP, DepEd and CHED shall establish/enhance mechanisms and appropriate funds in their respective departments to ensure the sustained implementation of peace education in the educational system.

Section 5. All issuances, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with any provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 6. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 26th day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 571
CREATING THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR TASK FORCE ON
PHILIPPINE COMPETITIVENESS

WHEREAS, it is the collective desire of the government and the business sector to improve international competitiveness to strengthen our industry, agriculture and service sectors, create jobs, and increase incomes as we move up the value chain;

WHEREAS, the holding of a National Competitiveness Summit aims to immediately address the critical problems on business efficiency, infrastructure, and governance, which are contributing to the decline in the country's international competitiveness;

WHEREAS, the implementation of an Action Agenda requires efficient coordination and joint responsibility between the government and the private sector under an empowered national body;

WHEREAS, the creation of a Public-Private Sector Task Force on Philippine Competitiveness is broadly supported by the private sector, which is keen to work closely with government to encourage competitiveness and pursue meaningful and effective legal, regulatory, institutional, procedural, and other appropriate reforms;

WHEREAS, Section 20, Chapter 7, Title I, Book III of EO No. 292 grants the President residual powers to reorganize the administrative structure of the Executive Branch of government.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Public-Private Sector Task Force on Philippine Competitiveness. There is hereby created a Public-Private Sector Task Force on Philippine Competitiveness, hereinafter referred to as the Task Force, which shall be attached to the Office of the President.

SEC. 2. Mandate. The Task Force will promote and develop national competitiveness by seeing to the implementation of the Action Agenda for Competitiveness, hereinafter referred to as the Action Agenda.

SEC. 3. Composition. The Task Force shall be composed of the Department Secretaries of Trade and Industry (DTI), Finance (DOF), Transportation and Communications (DOTC), Education (DepEd), and the Director General of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), and three (3) representatives from the business sector, including the Senior Advisor on International Competitiveness, one (1) representative from policy research institutions, and one (1) representative from civil society.

The Secretary of Trade and Industry and one (1) representative from the business sector shall be Co-Chairs of the Task Force.

SEC. 4. Powers and Functions. The Task Force shall exercise the following powers and functions in order to carry out its mandate:

-
- (a) Coordinate, monitor, and assess implementation of the Action Agenda and, when necessary, recommend appropriate adjustments thereon in the light of changing conditions in both the domestic and international environment.
 - (b) On behalf of the President, direct specific departments and agencies to attend to the bottlenecks and problems constraining competitiveness in any of the areas mentioned in the Action Agenda, and require the concerned Secretaries, to deliver progress report(s) on the actions/initiatives, taken to resolve these areas of concern.
 - (c) Recommend to Congress any proposed legislation that would contribute to the national competitiveness.
 - (d) Coordinate with Local Government Units (LGUs) through the respective leagues for the formulation of standards and policies to be observed by Local Government Units (LGUs) in order to ensure that plans and budgets of LGUs are supportive of the thrusts of the Action Agenda, and ensure optimal allocation of expenditures.
 - (e) Coordinate with concerned agencies for the generation of resources, both governmental and non-governmental, local, national and international, as may be appropriate, in and for the development, marketing, growth and competitiveness of the Philippine economy as set by the Action Agenda.
 - (f) Perform such other powers and functions as may be necessary, incidental or proper to its mandate, or as may be assigned from time to time by the President.

SEC. 5. Secretariat. The Task Force shall organize a Secretariat which shall report directly to it and shall be managed by two (2) Directors for Operations, one representing the Public Sector and the other representing the Private Sector (funded by the private sector).

SEC. 6. Coordination. The Task Force shall regularly coordinate with industry/trade associations, local and foreign chambers of commerce and the Senior Advisor on International Competitiveness to ensure the competitiveness of Philippine industries.

They may be invited as resource persons during meetings of the Task Force to carry out its mandate.

SEC. 7. Funding. The activities and operational expenses of the Task Force shall be funded jointly by budgetary appropriations from the government and from private sector contributions. To carry out the provisions of this Order, an initial allocation of Ten Million Pesos (₱10,000,000.00) for the necessary operating expenses of the Task Force shall come from funds of the Department of Trade and Industry. Subsequent funding for the Task Force may be incorporated in the budget proposal of the Department of Trade and Industry, subject to existing accounting and auditing laws, and procedures.

The private sector shall fund its own participation in the work of the Task Force. They are encouraged to secure their own funding through grants and other contributions from foreign and local private sector counterparts, subject to applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Donations for the operations of Task Force shall be received, accounted for, and disbursed in accordance with pertinent and existing laws, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. All Executive Orders, other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 5th day of October, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 572
REINSTATING THE MOVIE AND TELEVISION REVIEW AND CLASSIFICATION
BOARD (MTRCB) APPEALS COMMITTEE, AMENDING SECTION 1 (A) (3) OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 357, S. OF 2004

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2003, the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) Appeals Committee in the Office of the President was constituted pursuant to Section 4 of Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1986 by then President Fidel V. Ramos;

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2004, MTRCB Appeals Committee was abolished by EO No. 357, s. of 2004 (Pursuing the Rationalization of the Organization and Supervision of Agencies under/ attached to the Office of the President);

WHEREAS, there is a need to reconstitute the MTRCB Appeals Committee to handle appeals from MTRCB decisions disapproving or prohibiting the exhibition of motion picture or television program in its entirety;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Reinstatement of MTRCB Appeals Committee.* The MTRCB Appeals Committee, abolished under Executive Order No. 357, s. of 2004, is hereby reinstated to review decisions of MTRCB and submit its recommendations to the President.

SECTION 2. *Composition* – The MTRCB Appeals Committee in the Office of the President shall be composed of five (5) members to be appointed/designated by the President as follows:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Representative of the President | - Chairman |
| 2. Representative of the Press Secretary | - Vice Chairman |
| 3. Representative of the Presidential Council for Youth Affairs | - Member |
| 4. Representative of the Movie Industry | - Member |
| 5. Representative of the Television Industry | - Member |

The vote of at least three (3) concurring members of the Committee shall be required for the validity of a Committee decision.

SEC. 3. *Term of Office* – The persons designated in Section 2 hereof shall continue to function until he or she is replaced;

SEC. 4. *Sole Function* – The MTRCB Appeals Committee shall have no other function than to review the *second decision* of MTRCB disapproving or prohibiting *in its entirety* the exhibition of a motion picture or television program. A decision of the MTRCB, after a second review, disapproving or prohibiting the exhibition of a motion picture or television program in its entirety shall be appealable to the President of the Philippines. Said appeal, copy furnished MTRCB, shall be coursed through a

Committee, which, after conducting its own review, shall, within thirty (30) days from perfection of the appeal, submit its recommendations to the President.

SEC. 5. *Secretariat* – Pursuant to Section 4 of Presidential Decree No. 1986, the Office of the (Assistant), now, Deputy Executive Secretary for Legal Affairs (ODESLA) shall serve as the Secretariat of the Committee.

SEC. 6. *Agency Assistance* – In resolving the appeal, MTRCB and other concerned agencies shall extend such assistance and cooperation as may be required by the Committee.

SEC. 7. *MTRCB as an Observer* – A representative of the MTRCB Chairman shall be present during the review and the deliberations of the Committee as an Observer, and who may be consulted by the Committee on matters pertaining to MTRCB Rules and Regulations and on the circumstances pertaining to the MTRCB's decision on the case under deliberation.

SEC. 8. *Rules and Regulations* – The Committee may, in addition to Administrative Order No. 18, s. of 1987, governing appeals to the Office of the President and the provisions of this Executive Order, promulgate its own rules of procedure for the conduct of the review.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause* – This Executive Order effectively repeals Section 1 (A) (3) of Executive Order No. 357, s. of 2004, and amends Memorandum Order No. 226 dated September 22, 2006.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity* – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE, in the City of Manila, this 17th day of October, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). [*Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 573
DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO CREATE AN ANTI-FRAUD TASK FORCE
IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE DRIVE AGAINST CREDIT CARD FRAUDS AND
OTHER FRAUDULENT PRACTICES

WHEREAS, the widespread use of credit cards empowers consumers, both local and foreign, in their commercial transactions because of the convenience it presents as well as international acceptance;

WHEREAS, the occurrence of credit card frauds are increasing, and acquiring banks incur huge losses and suffer stunted credit card sales, ultimately threatening the survival of the credit card industry, including the negative repercussions in the domestic economy;

WHEREAS, the high level of credit card frauds creates a bad image for the country in the global market, prompting government to exert efforts to effectively counteract such form of economic sabotage in order to promote tourism in the country;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8484, otherwise known as the Access Devices Regulation Act of 1998, which regulates the issuance and use of credit cards as an access device and seeks to curtail credit card frauds and the proliferation of fraudulent cards, requires a robust system of implementation to be more effective;

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice is the agency that can assist in the effective implementation of the Access Devices Regulation Act of 1998.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby direct the Secretary of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to create an Anti-Fraud Task Force (AFTF) that will assist in the effective implementation of Republic Act No. 8484, otherwise known as the Access Devices Regulation Act of 1998, in order to strengthen the drive against credit card frauds and other fraudulent practices.

SECTION 1. Composition. The AFTF shall be composed of representatives from the DOJ, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and the Philippine National Police (PNP). The Secretary of Justice shall designate its head and deputy.

SEC. 2. Reporting. The AFTF shall submit to the Secretary of Justice reports of its activities with the appropriate recommendation, and the latter shall report the same to the Office of the President for information.

SEC. 3. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **25th** day of **October**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 574
MODIFYING THE NOMENCLATURE AND THE RATES OF IMPORT DUTY ON VARIOUS
PRODUCTS UNDER SECTION 104 OF THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978
(PD 1464, AS AMENDED)

WHEREAS, the basic task of the 2004-2010 Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan is to fight poverty by building prosperity for the greatest number of Filipino people;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the government to encourage the development of sustainable, prosperous and world-class domestic industries that will spur economic growth and create jobs;

WHEREAS, a dynamic economic landscape warrants a recalibration of the tariff structure consistent with the promotion of Philippine industries;

WHEREAS, Section 401 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978 (PD 1464, as amended), empowers the President of the Republic of the Philippines to increase, reduce or remove existing rates of import duty, as well as to modify the tariff nomenclature;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The articles specifically listed in Annex “A” hereof, as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be subject to the Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) rate of import duty in accordance with the schedule indicated opposite each article.

SECTION 2. Upon the effectivity of this Executive Order, the articles specifically listed in the aforesaid Annex “A” which are entered and withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption shall be levied the MFN rates of import duty therein prescribed.

SECTION 3. All Presidential issuances, administrative rules and regulations, or parts hereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Executive Order shall take effect thirty (30) days following its complete publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Done in the City of Manila, this 4th day of November, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 575

MODIFYING THE RATES OF DUTY ON CERTAIN IMPORTED ARTICLES AS PROVIDED UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF RATES ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS UNDER THE ASEAN INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION (AICO) SCHEME, IN FAVOR OF HONDA CARS PHILIPPINES, INC. (HCPI) AND HONDA PARTS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION (COE NO. HONDA/2006/46)

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a Contracting Party to the Basic Agreement on the ASEAN Industrial Cooperation Scheme (AICO) signed in Singapore on 27 April 1996;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a participating country in the approved AICO Arrangements of Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. along with Indonesia;

WHEREAS, under the Honda AICO Certificate of Eligibility No. Honda/2006/46, the Philippines (Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. and Honda Parts Manufacturing Corporation) will import from Indonesia (PT. Honda Prospect Motor and PT. Honda Precision Parts Manufacturing) certain original equipment manufacture (OEM) automotive parts/components for Honda Civic, Honda City and Honda CR-V. In exchange, Indonesia (PT. Honda Prospect Motor and PT. Honda Precision Parts Manufacturing) will import from the Philippines complementary parts/components for the OEM of Honda CR-V, Jazz and Stream;

WHEREAS, AICO Certificate of Eligibility No. Honda/2006/46 was issued on 19 July 2006, in favor of the participating companies in the Honda AICO Arrangement;

WHEREAS, in consonance with Articles 5 and 7 of the Basic Agreement of the AICO Scheme, as amended, participating companies in the approved Honda AICO Arrangements shall qualify for 0% preferential tariff rate to be extended by Indonesia and the Philippines as participating countries.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, pursuant to the powers vested in me under Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The articles specifically listed in Annex “A” hereof, as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be accorded the AICO rate of 0% on parts/components as specified in Column 5 thereof.

SECTION 2. The AICO rate provided in Annex “A” shall be accorded to the AICO entity in Indonesia (PT Honda Prospect Motor and PT Honda Precision Parts Manufacturing) upon the effectivity of this Executive Order.

SECTION 3. Upon the effectivity of this Executive Order, the articles specifically listed in the aforesaid Annex “A” which are entered or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption shall pay the applicable AICO preferential tariff rates specified under Section 1 hereof, subject to qualification under the Rules of Origin for the CEPT, as evidenced by the Certificate of Origin- Form “D”.

SECTION 4. All presidential issuances, administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 5th day of November, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Reference: Annex A

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 576
ABOLISHING THE GOVERNMENT MASS MEDIA GROUP AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Government Mass Media Group (GMMG) was created by Executive Order No. 348 dated 11 August 2004 to supervise and control the government-owned mass media entities;

WHEREAS, the charter of the Philippines Information Agency (PIA) empowers it to have access to government media agencies for the purpose of disseminating development-oriented information;

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure effective coordination between and among allied government agencies for better information dissemination; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the “Administrative Code of 1987,” grants the President continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order;

SECTION 1. The GMMG is hereby abolished. Its properties, staff and resources shall be transferred to the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS).

SEC. 2. The PIA Director-General, who shall continue to have Cabinet rank, shall exercise supervision and control “By authority of the President” over the following:

- (a) Philippine News Agency (PNA);
- (b) Bureau of Broadcast Services (BBS);
- (c) Bureau of Communication Services (BCS);
- (d) National Broadcasting Network, Inc. (NBN-4);
- (e) Radio Philippines Network, Inc. (RPN-9);
- (f) International Broadcasting Corporation (IBC-13).

SEC. 3. The President of the Philippines shall appoint the Chairman, President and General Manager of NBN-4. With respect to RPN-9 and IBC-13, the President shall express her desire whom she wishes to be elected as Board Members, Chairmen and Presidents thereof.

SEC. 4. The Chairman of NBN-4 shall not hold any other government position.

SEC. 5. The President and General Manager of NBN-4 shall be two different persons. The same distinction shall apply to the Presidents and General Managers of RPN-9 and IBC-13.

SEC. 6. The National Printing Office and the APO Production Unit shall attached to the OPS.

SEC. 7. All orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts therefore inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Executive Order shall take effect after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 7th day of November, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 577

**PLACING THE URBAN ASSET REFORM PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE UNDER
THE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the government's anti-poverty program is anchored on, among others, urban asset reform;

WHEREAS, government has committed to streamline and rationalize the bureaucracy and adopt a homogenous grouping of functionally-related government agencies;

WHEREAS, the Urban Asset Reform Project Management Office (UARPMO), created by virtue of Executive Order No. 371 (s. 2004) and mandated to develop the integration of formal and informal settlements into one legal system as a framework of Philippine urban asset reform;

WHEREAS, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), created by virtue of EO 90 (s. 1986), is mandated to formulate national objectives, policies and strategies for housing and urban development;

WHEREAS, there is a need to facilitate the coordination of policies and programs relative to housing, urban development and urban asset reform;

WHEREAS, Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of Executive Order 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, provides continuing authority to the President to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Placing the Urban Asset Reform Project Management Office under HUDCC. The Urban Asset Reform Project Management Office is hereby placed under the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, which shall exercise control and supervision over the said office.

SECTION 2. Assistance to the HUDCC and UARPMO. All national government offices, including government-owned and/or -controlled corporations, government financial institutions, local government units, and other instrumentalities, are hereby directed to render the assistance needed by the HUDCC and UARPMO in its implementation of the asset reform program.

SECTION 4. Separability clause. In the event that any provision of this Order is declared invalid, the other provisions that are unaffected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. Repeal. All orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE, in the City of Manila, this 17th day of November, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 578

ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL POLICY ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, PRESCRIBING ITS IMPLEMENTATION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY IN THE SULU SULAWESI MARINE ECOSYSTEM AND THE VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE MARINE CORRIDOR

WHEREAS, biological diversity, also referred to as biodiversity, is essential to sustain all life and is a foundation of a sound environment that is necessary for human well-being and sustainable development;

WHEREAS, the Philippines, as one of eighteen (18) mega-biodiversity countries that collectively make up two-thirds of the earth's biological diversity, is immensely rich in both terrestrial and marine biodiversity;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is also known as one of the biodiversity hotspots where biological diversity is under constant threat due to unsustainable resource use practices, overexploitation, population pressure, poverty and other factors;

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution provides in Section 16 of Article II that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, Republic Act (RA) No. 7586, otherwise known as the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, RA No. 9147, otherwise referred to as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, RA No. 9072, otherwise referred to as the National Caves and Cave Resources Management and Protection Act, and RA No. 8550, otherwise known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 mandate the state to protect and conserve biological diversity;

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), its partner institutions and civil society have developed the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in 1997 and its iteration in 2002 entitled "Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priority-Setting Program";

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 533, issued in June 2006, adopted the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) as a national strategy for sustainable development of marine and coastal resources;

WHEREAS, there are many efforts throughout the country by local communities, civil society organizations, and the private sector to converse, protect and sustainably use biodiversity;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a party to various multilateral environmental agreements with the aim of conserving and sustainably using biological diversity, including the United Nations (UN) Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention of Wetlands, and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, among others;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a party to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Basel Convention, and is a member of the International Maritime Organization, as well as a party to various international agreements on marine pollution;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA), has adopted the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-EAS), and is a partner of the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA);

WHEREAS, the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME) is situated at the apex of the coral triangle, which is recognized as having the highest coral diversity in the world, and is jointly managed by the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia under a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2004 and in accordance with the SSME Conservation Plan;

WHEREAS, the Verde Island Passage Marine Corridor, within the SSME and inside Philippine territory covering the provinces of Batangas, Mindoro Occidental, Mindoro Oriental, Marinduque and Romblon, has been identified by scientists as the Center of Marine Shorefish Diversity in the world;

WHEREAS, there is a need to establish, in accordance with law, the National Policy on Biological Diversity, and prescribe its implementation throughout the country, particularly in the Verde Island Passage Marine Corridor, and in all Philippine territory within the SSME.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Policy of the State on Biological Diversity. In accordance with law, it is the policy of the state to protect, conserve, and sustainably use biological diversity to ensure and secure the well-being of present and future generations of Filipinos. This state policy extends to all the components of biodiversity - ecosystems, species and genes.

The Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Tourism (DOT), Science and Technology (DOST), Agriculture (DA), Health (DOH), Energy (DOE), Transportation and Communications (DOTC), Foreign Affairs (DFA), Trade and Industry (DTI), National Defense (DND), and Interior and Local Government (DILG), the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), and all concerned government agencies and offices and local government units shall integrate and mainstream the protection, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into their policies, rules and regulations, programs, projects and development planning process.

All government agencies, including local government units, shall formulate and submit to DENR, for monitoring compliance, their respective biological diversity programs. The DENR shall provide technical assistance to all concerned agencies.

SEC. 2. Role of the Private Sector and Civil Society. Recognizing that the protection, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is a shared responsibility among all sectors, the DENR and all concerned government agencies and offices shall actively engage and collaborate with the private sector, civil society, and local communities so that biological diversity goals are incorporated in their respective programs and activities, including institutionalizing biodiversity conservation as a principal corporate environmental responsibility. Public participation in protection, conservation and sustainable use activities, especially at the local level, shall be encouraged to maximize conservation and community benefits.

SEC. 3. Guidelines on Critical Habitats and Key Biodiversity Areas. To implement the state policy on biological diversity, the DENR shall, in accordance with law and subject to public consultations, develop and promulgate rules, and regulations for the establishment of critical habitats within key biodiversity areas which are known to harbor habitats and ecosystems critical for the survival of threatened, restricted-range, and congregatory species, and provide the guidelines for their management and protection. Biodiversity impact assessment shall be integrated into the Environmental Impact Assessment and the Environmental Risk Assessment Processes, taking into consideration guidelines

adopted under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. Such rules, regulations and guidelines shall be issued within sixty days from the effectivity of this Order.

SEC. 4. The Presidential Commission for the Integrated Conservation and Development for the Sulu Celebes Seas. The DENR, as Chairman of the Presidential Commission for the Integrated Conservation and Development of the Sulu Celebes Seas created in 1997 by Proclamation No. 1028, otherwise referred to as the Commission, is hereby instructed to immediately undertake the following tasks, viz: (1) review and update the SSME conservation plan; (2) create and organize an Ad Hoc Task Force on Verde Island Passage to ensure the protection, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Verde Island Passage Marine Corridor; and, (3) identify other marine biodiversity corridors within the SSME that require urgent attention and formulate appropriate conservation and management strategies.

The Task Force, which is to be composed of DENR, DOT, DOST, DA, DOH, DOE, DOTC, DFA, DTI, DND, DILG, NEDA and all local government units shall formulate the Verde Island Passage Management Plan in consultation with stakeholders, the private sector, civil society and local communities and shall submit the same to the Commission for approval. In the preparation of the plan, the Task Force shall take into account existing efforts to protect marine biodiversity, implement integrated Coastal Management, and conduct disaster risk assessment and management in the Verde Island Passage Marine Corridor. The Commission shall ensure that the Plan is completed within 120 days from the effectivity of this Order.

SEC. 5. Funding. Starting 2008 and thereafter, the funding requirements shall be included in the General Appropriations Bill to be submitted to Congress.

All member-departments of the PC-ICDSCS and the TF-VIP are under obligation to fully support the activities by way of entering into appropriate agreements, as well as sharing financial and technical resources, among others, to support the Implementation of the SSME Conservation Plan.

SEC. 6. Repeal. All executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. Separability. – Any portion or provision of this Executive Order that maybe declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying its other portions or provisions, as long as such remaining portions can still be given effect.

Section 8. Effectivity. – This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 8th day of November, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 579
ENCOURAGING THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GREEN PHILIPPINES
PROGRAMS THROUGH THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM (NSTP)

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a young nation; our people are young, those under 30 years old make up sixty-five (65%) percent of the population;

WHEREAS, it is the youth of this nation who have the energy to make their visions come true;

WHEREAS, it is the time for the younger generation to be actively involved in civic life, and be responsible for their own future;

WHEREAS, the Arroyo Administration is calling for a New Vision for Young Nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The National Service Training Program (NSTP) shall endeavor to build a new quality of life that will keep the nation young and beautiful. In order to ensure its realization, all students under NSTP, Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), Literacy Training Service (LTS), and Civic Welfare Training Service (CWTS), shall be involved in Green Philippines Activities which include among others:

- a.) Taking back our forests and replenishing fallen trees with new, protected forests;
- b.) Beautifying our barangays and cities;
- c.) Building more urban parks and recreation areas;
- d.) Purifying our water;
- e.) Cleaning up industrial sites;

SECTION 2. At least 36 hours per semester or 72 hours in case of one summer program shall be dedicated for the implementation of the activities enumerated under Section 1 hereof.

SECTION 3. The Chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall act as the Lead Implementor of this Order, assisted by the Chair of the National Youth Commission (NYC).

SECTION 4. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Local Government Units (LGUs) shall assist the schools in identifying the areas where the Green Philippine Activities of the NSTP shall be implemented.

SECTION 5. All other executive issuances, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and shall be implemented starting on the first (1st) semester of school year 2007-2008.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 30th day of November, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 580
AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 256 DATED 21 DECEMBER 1995 AND
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 197 DATED 13 JANUARY 2000 ON THE IMPOSITION
OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINE FOR LOSS OF FIREARM

WHEREAS, Executive order No. 256 dated 21 December 1995, rationalized the fees and charges on Firearms, Ammunition, Spare Parts, Accessories, Components, Explosives, Explosives Ingredients, Pyrotechnics and other devices;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 197 dated 13 January 2000 directed all Departments, Bureaus, Commissions, Agencies, Offices and Instrumentalities of the National Government including government-owned or controlled corporations to increase their rates of fees and charges by not less than twenty (20) percent and based on this order the Philippine National Police implemented a Revised Schedule of Fees, including administrative fines for loss of firearms;

WHEREAS, based on the Firearm Information Management System (FIMS) of the Firearms and Explosives Division, Civil Security Group, 5,399 registered firearms were reported lost by licensed firearm holders;

WHEREAS, there is a need to impose stiffer administrative fines for loss of firearms in order to encourage licensed firearm holders to be more conscious in securing their registered firearms to prevent the same from getting into the hands of terrorists or criminal elements.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the following:

SECTION 1. The rate of administrative fine for loss of firearm regardless of the type and/or caliber which is covered by Special Permit (SP) or Certificate of Registration (CR) shall be as follows:

- P 5,000 - For each FA lost during the first reported loss of FA;
- P10,000 - For each FA during the second reported loss of FA; and
- P15,000 - and Permanent Disqualification From Possessing a Firearm
For each FA lost during the third reported loss of FA.

SECTION 2. All citizens of the Philippines who were issued licenses to possess firearm will be permanently disqualified from possessing firearm of any type and/or caliber after losing a registered firearm for the third time.

SECTION 3. The Philippine National Police shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Order.

SECTION 4. All orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila, this 21st day of November, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 581

SEGREGATING THE OCCUPIED PORTION OF THE DOST-REGION VII PROPERTY LOCATED
IN BARANGAY LAHUG, CEBU CITY AND DECLARING THE SAME AS ALIENABLE AND
DISPOSABLE TO BENEFIT MEMBERS OF THE DRI RIVERBED
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION (DRIHOA)

WHEREAS, Section 8 of Republic Act (RA) 7279, otherwise known as the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA) of 1992, mandates that *government-owned lands which have not been used for the purpose for which they were intended for the past ten (10) years from its effectivity may be disposed of for socialized housing purposes*;

WHEREAS, the national government or any of its subdivisions, instrumentalities, or agencies, including GOCCs and their subsidiaries are directed under Paragraph 3, Section 2, of EO 131, to give full support and cooperation to HUDCC in the disposition of government-owned lands defined in Section 8 of the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA) of 1992;

WHEREAS, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has certified that the 38 bona fide occupants belonging to DRI Riverbed Homeowners Association (DRIHOA) have been occupying the 2,213-sqm portion of DOST's 10,000-sqm property in Barangay Lahug, Cebu City for more than twenty (20) years now, even before subject property was acquired;

WHEREAS, DOST has further certified that the occupied portion is impractical to the needs of the Department, while the Department of Health (DOH) certified that the occupied portion is suitable for socialized housing purposes to benefit the members of DRIHOA;

WHEREAS, the DOST has certified that disposing the occupied portion will redound to the benefit of both the government and the bona fide occupants because it will eradicate the presence of squatters within their remaining property and at the same time regularize the tenure of DRIHOA members;

WHEREAS, the Office of the City Planning and Development Coordinator of Cebu City has certified that the occupied portion is not within the flood prone area nor affected by any of its planned projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL – ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. DOST, with the assistance of HUDCC, shall effect the disposition of the occupied portion with an area of two thousand two hundred thirteen (2,213) square meters located in Barangay Lahug, Cebu City to the bona fide occupants thereat.

SEC. 2. A Local Inter-Agency Committee (LIAC) shall be created to formulate the guidelines and to oversee the implementation of the project, composed of the Department of Science and Technology as Chair, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) as Co-Chair, and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Cebu City, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

(DENR), the National Housing Authority (NHA), the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), and a representative of the People's Organization (PO) in the area, as members.

SEC. 3. The DOST is hereby authorized to enter into appropriate project schemes and contractual arrangements, subject to existing rules and regulations, in the implementation and development of the subject property.

SEC. 4. The DOST is further authorized to provide the funds for the various activities required to implement this Executive Order, including site development and other requirements.

SEC. 5. In the event that any provision hereof is declared invalid by any competent court of tribunal, the other provisions hereof unaffected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 8th day of December, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 582

STREAMLINING THE PROCESS OF AUTHENTICATING DOCUMENTS INTENDED FOR USE
ABROAD AND TRANSFERRING THE AUTHENTICATION OFFICE FROM THE OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the government to reduce red tape by streamlining processes and eliminating duplicative cross-agency activities:

WHEREAS, both the Office of Consular Affairs (OCA) of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Authentication Office of the Office of the President (AO-OP) perform similar authentication functions;

WHEREAS, Chapter 1, Article 5, sub-article (F) of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and Optional Protocols of which the Philippines is a signatory of this Convention provides that a given state's consular office shall act "as notary and civil registrar and in capacities of a similar kind, and performing certain functions of an administrative nature";

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO No. 292 s. 1987) mandates the Department of Foreign Affairs to serve as the official channel for foreign relations, including official communications to and from the Republic of the Philippines, and carry out legal documentation functions under pertinent laws and regulations, among others;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law do hereby order:

Sec. 1. Responsibility for Authentication. The DFA-OCA is hereby mandated to be the agency solely responsible for authenticating documents certified as authentic by the issuing agency office.

In this regard, the AO-OP is hereby directed to transfer to the DFA-OCA all equipments, furniture, materials, pertinent documents and other facilities necessary for the operations of authentication function.

Sec. 2. Detail of OP Personnel. The AO-OP personnel shall be detailed to the DFA-OCA for a maximum of six (6) months in order for the DFA-OCA to acquire the necessary competence to carry out the authentication process according to the service standards set by the one day authentication process of the AO-OP. After this transition period, personnel detailed from the AO-OP to the DFA-OCA shall have the option to stay in the DFA-OCA or avail of early retirement privileges.

Sec. 3. Accrual of Proceeds. Revenues collected or receipts of any kind from the streamlined authentication process shall be remitted to or deposited intact with the National Treasury. The DBM shall, however, allocate an appropriate amount, proposed by the DFA-OCA, for the operations of the office.

Sec. 4. Continuing Research. The DFA, in coordination with concerned government agencies, shall conduct continuing research for further improvements of the authentication process.

Sec. 5. Rules and Regulations. The DFA Secretary shall issue rules and regulations to implement this Executive Order.

Sec. 6. Repealing Clause. Letter of Instruction (LOI) 1446 s. 1985, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 7. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila this 4th day of December, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 582-A

AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 582 DATED 4 DECEMBER 2006, ENTITLED
“STREAMLINING THE PROCESS OF AUTHENTICATING DOCUMENTS INTENDED FOR USE
ABROAD AND TRANSFERRING THE AUTHENTICATION OFFICE FROM THE OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS”

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 493 (EO 493) dated 05 January 1978, issued pursuant to the legislative power of then President Ferdinand Marcos, authorized the Office of the President to charge authentication fees;

WHEREAS, Batas Pambansa Blg. 325 (BP 325) dated 27 December 1982 authorized the Office of the President, *inter alia* to revise such fees and charges, sufficient to cover administrative costs;

WHEREAS, Letter of Instructions No. 1446 (LOI 1446), dated 23 January 1985, issued pursuant to the legislative power of then President Ferdinand Marcos, mandated that authentication fees collected by the Office of the President pursuant to EO 493 and BP 325 are hereby set aside as a trust fund for the exclusive use of the Office of the President;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 582 (EO 582) dated 4 December 2006, entitled “*Streamlining the Process of Authenticating Documents Intended for Use Abroad and Transferring the Authentication Office from the Office of the President to the Department of Foreign Affairs*,” mandated the Office of Consular Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA, OCA) to be the agency responsible for authenticating documents;

WHEREAS, EO 582, dated 4 December 2006 further provides that revenues collected or receipts of any kind from the streamlining authentication process shall be remitted to or deposited intact with the National Treasury and that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall allocate an appropriate amount, proposed by the DFA-OCA, for the operations of the Office;

WHEREAS, EO 582, dated 4 December 2006 being an Executive Issuance, may not directly repeal or amend EO 493, dated 5 January 1978 and LOI 1446, dated 23 January 1985 both issued pursuant to the legislative power of then President Ferdinand Marcos;

WHEREAS, there is a need to harmonize the provisions of EO 582, dated 4 December 2006 with the provisions of EO 493, dated 5 January 1978 and LOI 1446, dated 23 January 1985, as well as BP 325, dated 27 December 1982.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Amendment of EO 582, dated 4 December 2006. – Section 3 of EO 582, dated 4 December 2006 is hereby amended as follows:

“SEC. 3. *Proceeds from Authentication Fees.*-Revenues collected or receipts of any kind from the streamlined authentication process shall accrue to the OP Trust Fund for the exclusive use of the Office of the President (OP) pursuant to Letter of Instruction No. 1446,

dated 23 January 1985. The amount necessary for the operations of the DFA-OCA shall be provided in the regular budget of the DFA.”

SEC. 2. Effectivity.-This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 1st day of March, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Ten.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2010). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 583
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL SCIENCE COMPLEX AND TECHNOLOGY INCUBATION
PARK IN THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, DILIMAN

WHEREAS, Article XIV, Section 10 of the Constitution provides that “x x x The state shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation, and their utilization; and to science and technology education, training, and services x x x.”;

WHEREAS, efforts to support and strengthen our scientific and technological capabilities and their application to our country’s productive systems and national life require complementary initiatives in generating new scientific knowledge and technology, technology transfer and diffusion, and technology utilization and management;

WHEREAS, all these efforts presuppose the availability of highly trained manpower to lead and direct scientific and technological activities in the academe, the private sector, and the government;

WHEREAS, the University of the Philippines, demonstrating competence and availability of core scientific personnel, national centers of excellence, intellectual resources, and academic and research infrastructure, is in the best position to harness and organize State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), private universities, other private and public academic institutions, industry, government agencies, and other sectors, in order to serve as the national hub for the generation and application of new scientific knowledge in the natural and applied sciences and mathematics;

WHEREAS, the University of the Philippines, with the assistance of the aforementioned institutions and sectors, has the capability of supplying competent manpower and technical support for the UP S&T Park and its component Technology Business Incubators (TBIs);

WHEREAS, the University of the Philippines and its S&T Park can potentially serve as a model for other technology parks in the country;

WHEREAS, in a meeting of the UP Board of Regents on September 29, 2006, the establishment of the National Science Complex in UP Diliman has been approved and has authorized the UP President to seek support from the government on this endeavor;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *The National Science Complex.* - The **National Science Complex and Technology Incubation Park** is hereby established in a 21.9 hectare area of the southern sector of the University of the Philippines, Diliman, which shall be composed of the following Member Institutes:

- a. National Institute of Geological Sciences (NIGS)
- b. Marine Science Institute (MSI)
- c. National Institute of Physics (NIP)
- d. National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (NIMBB)
- e. Institute of Biology (IB)

- f. Institute of Chemistry (IC)
- g. Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology (IESM)
- h. Department of Mathematics (DM)
- i. Natural Science Research Institute (NSRI)

SECTION 2. *Management, Operation and Institution of the National Science Complex and Technology Incubation Park.* - The UP Board of Regents is hereby authorized to organize the abovementioned institutes, and such other additional institutes, centers, departments and laboratories in the future which it may deem proper to create, utilizing the staff, physical facilities and programs of the University and its constituent units as appropriate. It shall issue such rules regulations and other issuances as may be necessary to ensure the effective implementation of this Executive Order.

SECTION 3. *Appropriations.* - The appropriation for the infrastructure of the National Science Complex and Technology Incubation Park, as authorized under Republic Act No. 9358, approved on October 16, 2006, to supplement the FY 2006 Budget, under Section 1, C, C.1 thereof, in the amount of **Five Hundred Million Pesos (PhP500,000,000.00)** shall be released to UP by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) in accordance with budgeting laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* - All other executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity.* - This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE, in the City of Manila, on this 8th day of December, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 584
PROMULGATING THE SEVENTH REGULAR FOREIGN INVESTMENT NEGATIVE LIST

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7042, otherwise known as the Foreign Investments Act of 1991, as amended by RA 8179, provides for the formulation of a Regular Foreign Investment Negative List covering investment areas/activities which may be opened to foreign investors and/or reserved to Filipino nationals;

WHEREAS, the Regular Foreign Investment Negative List, consisting of Lists A and B, is effective for two (2) years pursuant to Section 8 of RA 7042 (as amended) and its revised Implementing Rules and Regulations;

WHEREAS, there is a need to formulate a Seventh Regular Foreign Investment Negative List in view of the expiration of the existing list on January 6, 2007;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Only the investment areas or activities listed in Annex A hereof shall be reserved to Philippine nationals, and hereafter shall be referred to as the Seventh Regular Foreign Investment Negative List. The extent of foreign equity in these areas shall be limited to the percentages indicated in the List.

SECTION 2. Any amendment to List A may be made at any time to reflect changes instituted in specific laws while amendments to List B shall not be made more often than once every two years, pursuant to Section 8 of RA 7042 (as amended) and its revised Implementing Rules and Regulations.

SECTION 3. All orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Executive Order shall take effect upon the expiration of the Sixth Regular Foreign Investment Negative List on January 6, 2007 following its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila, this 8th day of December, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Reference: “Annex A”

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 585
PROVIDING FOR THE SURRENDER AND LICENSING OF LOOSE FIREARMS AND THE
UTILIZATION OF FUNDS FROM THE PROCEEDS THEREOF

WHEREAS, despite the issuance of Executive Order Nos. 171 and 390, an estimated 304,262 loose firearms remain to be accounted and licensed;

WHEREAS, it is consistent with the national interest that these loose firearms be submitted for licensing and the holders of loose firearms be encouraged and given an opportunity to obtain the required firearm license;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the registration and licensing of loose firearms will be accomplished if the appropriate technology and resources are made available to exploit the firearm ballistic data bank;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the state to encourage the use of IT resources by governmental entities and offices in the delivery of services to the public;

WHEREAS, Executive Order 171 was approved on January 22, 2003 to address these issues but its implementation was limited due to the COMELEC imposed gun ban during the election period of 2004;

WHEREAS, Executive Order 171 was extended thru Executive Order 390 but the duration was limited only to seven months;

WHEREAS, there is a need to implement another firearm amnesty program to license all loose firearms in the possession of natural and juridical persons who were not able to take advantage of EO 171 and EO 390.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Any natural and juridical person who possess loose firearms may surrender the same to the Philippine National Police for custody and apply for the corresponding license as required by existing laws within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Order, excluding the election period (January 14, 2007 to June 13, 2007), which was declared by the COMELEC pursuant to COMELEC Resolution 7707. Concerned holders of said firearms may avail of this amnesty only within the period. Each firearm submitted for licensing shall have its own distinct firearm description.

SECTION 2. As a general rule, high-powered rifles/paltik firearms may not be allowed for licensing. However, the Chief, PNP may allow the licensing of some high-powered firearms. Those who will surrender the same will not be prosecuted for illegal possession of firearm while in the act of surrendering the said firearms.

SECTION 3. An amnesty fee of Three Thousand Pesos (3,000.00) for High Powered Firearms and Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) for Low Powered Firearms, shall be collected for each firearm registered.

SECTION 4. Fees collected in Section 3, thereof, shall be treated as a Trust Liability and deposited in a Special Account in an Authorized Government Depository Bank (AGDB) to support

the nation-wide implementation of the Firearms Information Management System (FIMS), Firearms Records Management System and the Firearms Ballistic Information System in the priority and, any unexpended balance therefrom, shall be reverted to the General Fund.

SECTION 5. The Firearms and Explosives Division (FED), Civil Security Group (CSG), the Regional Offices and the Provincial/City Police Offices of the PNP involved in the processing and registration of loose firearms shall retain 20% of the gross proceeds of the collection to support their respective direct costs of licensing operation.

SECTION 6. The Chief, PNP shall issue such Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) that will effectively carryout the provisions of the Executive Order subject to the approval/concurrence of the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government.

SECTION 7. All orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. This Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **11th** day of **December**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 585-A
AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 585, SERIES OF 2006, BY EXTENDING THE PERIOD
OF REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS AND INCREASING THE AMNESTY FEES FOR THE
SURRENDER AND LICENSING OF LOOSE FIREARMS

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 585 dated December 11, 2006 provided for the surrender and licensing of loose firearms and the utilization of funds from the proceeds thereof;

WHEREAS, the implementation of EO No. 585 (2006) was delayed due to the national elections last May 14, 2007;

WHEREAS, the increase in amnesty fees will generate additional revenue that will augment the modernization of equipment in the Civil Security Group of the Philippine National Police and further facilitate investigation of crimes committed with firearms;

WHEREAS, the volume of projected and targeted number of loose firearms to be registered through the amnesty program demands for a reasonable period of time in order to provide allowance to those prospective registrant in remote areas, thereby necessitating the extension of the one-year period of registration to be reckoned from the effectivity of this order.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Sections 1 and 3 of Executive Order No. 585, dated December 11, 2006, are hereby amended as follows:

“SECTION 1. Any natural and juridical person who possesses loose firearms may surrender the same to the Philippine National Police for custody and apply for the corresponding license as required by existing laws within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Order. Concerned holders of said firearms may avail of this amnesty only within the period. Each firearm submitted for licensing shall have its own distinct firearms description.”

“SECTION 3. An amnesty fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) for High Powered Firearms and Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) for Low Powered Firearms shall be collected for each firearm registered.”

Section 2. All executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuance or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 3. This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 28th day of August, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 586

**TRANSFERRING THE PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY (PRA) FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order No. 380, series of 2004, the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) is tasked to develop, improve, administer, deal in, subdivide, dispose, lease, and sell all kinds of lands, buildings, estates and other forms of real property owned, managed, controlled and/or operated by the government, and thus, hold assets in behalf of the National Government;

WHEREAS, PRA is further mandated to convert underutilized government land into income-generating real estate properties and deliver projects and services related to land development and urban renewal;

WHEREAS, reclamation, land development and urban renewal are basically public works projects;

WHEREAS, Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III, of the Administrative Code of 1987, grants to the President continuing authority to reorganize the government.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. The Philippine Reclamation Authority is hereby transferred from the Department of Finance (DOF) to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Section 2. All orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 3. This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila, this 8th day of **December**, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 587
DIRECTING DTI TO ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER THE PHILIPPINE
BUSINESS REGISTRY (PBR) PROJECT

WHEREAS, Section 29 of Republic Act No. 8792 or the “*Electronic Commerce Act*”, approved by the President on 14 June 2000, gives the Department of Trade and Industry the authority to direct and supervise the promotion and development of electronic commerce in the country with relevant government agencies;

WHEREAS, the two salient provisions of the Electronic Commerce Act are Section 27 (Government Use of Electronic Data Messages, Electronic Documents and Electronic Signatures) and Section 28 (RPWEB to Promote the Use of Electronic Documents and Electronic Data Messages in Government and to the General Public);

WHEREAS, the Philippine Business Registry (PBR) system will facilitate a seamless transactional environment for business registration and development across the application systems of various government agencies such as but not limited to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Social Security System (SSS), and Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth);

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 428 issued on 18 May 2005, directs Departments, Bureaus, Offices and other Agencies in the Executive Branch, including Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations to simplify rules and regulations and reduce reportorial requirements to facilitate doing business and encourage more investments in the country;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 557 issued on 08 August 2006, establishes an Anti-Red Tape Task Force chaired by the DTI Secretary, the objective of which is to immediately remove national government bottlenecks, particularly those that hinder the securing of necessary permits in starting up private businesses;

WHEREAS, the PBR will evolve into a business facilitation platform that is envisioned to increase commercial activities within and outside the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Secretary of Trade and Industry is hereby directed to establish and administer comprehensive and integrated programs for business registration and facilitation at the national, regional and local levels with due consideration to advances in convergence and other emerging technologies. For this purpose, he may call on any agency, corporation or organization, whether public or private, whose development programs in business registration and facilitation are an integral part thereof, to participate and assist in the preparation and implementation of such programs. Technical Working Groups (TWGs) may also be created to address specific issues and concerns.

SECTION 2. The Secretary of Trade and Industry shall formulate and recommend national policies and guidelines that will promote business registration and facilitation with both public and private sectors. For this purpose he shall consult the --

1. Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
2. Commissioner, Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)
3. Commissioner, Bureau of Customs (BOC)
4. President and Chief Executive Officer, Social Security System (SSS)
5. Administrator, National Statistics Office (NSO)
6. President and Chief Executive Officer, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)
7. Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
8. President, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)

SECTION 3. The Secretary of Trade and Industry shall perform such other powers and functions as may be prescribed by law or as may be necessary, incidental or proper to pursue its mandate or as may be assigned from time to time by the President. He shall submit a periodic report of its activities to the President.

SECTION 4. To carry out the provisions of this Order, funds for the necessary expenses for the operations of the PBR shall come from Philippine Business Registry (PBR) project funds administered by the Department of Trade and Industry subject to existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 5. This Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **8th** day of **December**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 588
STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE SHIP BUILDING AND SHIP REPAIR SECTOR AND
INSTITUTING MEASURES TO PROMOTE ITS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the government has committed itself, as embodied in the President's Ten-Point Legacy Program, to create six (6) to ten (10) million jobs and to encourage investments in preferred areas of activity;

WHEREAS, the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan of 2004 - 2010 and the Investment Priorities Plan of 2006 have identified ship building and ship repair as among the areas where the Philippines has natural and human resource advantage;

WHEREAS, Republic Act (RA) No. 9295 encourages the development of a viable ship building and ship repair sector supportive of the shipping industry;

WHEREAS, the accelerated and sustained development of the ship building and ship repair sector requires the joint and active collaboration between the government and the private sector as shown by even the most developed countries in the world;

WHEREAS, RA 8042 provides that the State shall continuously create local employment opportunities and promote the equitable distribution of wealth and benefits of development;

WHEREAS, there is a need to attract and maintain much needed investments for the development of ship building and ship repair sector in view of its capacity to contribute to the country's economic output, its strategic significance given the archipelagic nature of the Philippine geography, and its potential to open up vast opportunities for employment and skills training for Filipinos;

WHEREAS, Section 3, Article XIII of the Constitution recognizes the right business enterprises to adopt and enforce such policies necessary to protect the right to reasonable returns on investments and to expansion and growth;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Development of the Philippine Ship Building and Ship Repair Sector. The growth and development of the Philippine ship building and ship repair sector shall be a key component of the government's continuing industrial development program in accordance with the President's Ten-Point Agenda.

The entry and maintenance of foreign and local investment in the Philippine ship building and ship repair sector shall enjoy the government's full support in view of its capability to generate employment opportunities, modernize the country's industrial sector, and improve productivity levels through the use of new technological and managerial know-how.

SECTION 2. Training, Development and Employment of Filipinos. The training, development and continued employment of Filipino citizens in duly registered entities engaged in ship building and ship repair within the country shall form part of the government's effort to promote investment in the Filipino towards a world class and competitive industry.

The “FILIPINO INVESTING IN THE PHILIPPINES” Program is hereby launched effective immediately and to last for five (5) years thereafter, wherein the conduct by duly registered entities engaged in ship building and ship repair of free skills-training and development for Filipino citizens in consideration of the latter’s continued and exclusive employment in the said entities shall be encouraged and promoted in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations. Filipino workers who participated in the free skills-training and development conducted by duly registered entities engaged in ship building and ship repair are likewise encouraged to faithfully adhere to their contractual commitments with the entities under the program. Accordingly, overseas deployment or changes in employment in the breach of contract by said Filipino workers shall be considered acts inimical and greatly prejudicial to the national interest.

Filipino workers who participated in the free-skills training and development programs of, and are subsequently employed by, duly registered entities engaged in ship building and ship repair in the Philippines, shall be entitled to such incentives as may be provided by law.

SECTION 3. Right to Guard Trade Secrets, Confidential Programs and Information. Subject to the provisions of existing laws, the right of duly registered entities engaged in a ship building and ship repair to adopt reasonable employment policies to effectively guard their respective trade secrets, manufacturing formulas, strategies and other confidential programs and information from competitors, both local and foreign, is hereby recognized.

SECTION 4. *Ad Hoc* Committee. An *Ad Hoc* Committee is hereby established to immediately formulate a comprehensive development plan for the ship building and ship repair sector under such terms and conditions as would stimulate and be consistent with the progressive development thereof. The Committee shall be chaired by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Administrator, with representatives from the following agencies as members:

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
Department of Finance (DOF)
Department of Justice (DOJ)
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)
Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA)
Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)

The Committee shall submit such program within sixty (60) days from effectivity of this Executive Order.

SECTION 5. Institutional Assistance and Support. To the extent permitted by law, all concerned government agencies, bureaus, and all instrumentalities shall assist duly registered entities engaged in ship building and ship repair in the Philippines in availing of all applicable fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, including registration as a preferred pioneer industry under the Board of Investments (BOI).

The NEDA, DOF, DOJ, DTI, DOLE, DPWH, DENR, MARINA, PEZA, SBMA, PCG, and all other concerned government agencies, bureaus, and instrumentalities are hereby directed to provide the necessary cooperation and support, including appropriate administrative and institutional assistance to duly registered entities engaged in ship building and ship repair, and their respective Filipino trainees and employees, to ensure the timely and effective implementation of this Executive Order.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. Any portion or provision of this Executive Order that may be declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect or nullifying other portions and provisions of the Order for as long as such remaining portions can still subsist and be given effect.

SECTION 7. Repeal. All presidential issuances, administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila this 8th day of December, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 588-A
AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 588 ENTITLED “STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE
SHIP BUILDING AND SHIP REPAIR SECTOR AND INSTITUTING MEASURES TO PROMOTE
ITS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT”

WHEREAS, on 08 December 2006, Executive Order 588 was issued to bolster the Arroyo Administration’s resolve, as embodied in the Ten-Point Legacy Program, to create six (6) to ten (10) million jobs and to encourage investments in preferred areas of activity, including the shipping industry;

WHEREAS, under E.O. 588, the “Filipino Investing in the Philippines” Program was launched and will expire five (5) years after the effectivity of the said E.O;

WHEREAS, there is a need to extend the duration of the Program in order to sustain the training, development and continuing employment of qualified Filipino citizens in duly registered entities engaged in ship building and ship repair;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Amendment of Executive Order No. 588. – Section 2, paragraph 2, of Executive Order No. 588 is hereby amended, thus:

Section 2. Training, Development and Employment of Filipinos.

“xxx xxx xxx

The “Filipino Investing in the Philippines” Program is hereby launched effective immediately and to last for ten (10) years thereafter, wherein the conduct by duly registered entities engaged in ship building and ship repair of free skills-training and development for Filipino citizens in consideration of the latter’s continued and exclusive employment in the said entities shall be encouraged and promoted in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations. Filipino workers who participated in the free skills-training and development conducted by duly registered entities engaged in ship building and ship repair are likewise encouraged to faithfully adhere to their contractual commitments with the entities under the program. Accordingly, overseas deployment or changes in employment in the breach of contract by said Filipino workers shall be considered acts inimical and greatly prejudicial to the national interest.

xxx xxx xxx.”

Section 2. Repeal. – All Presidential issuances, administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

Section 3. Effectivity. – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE, in the city of Manila, this 27th day of July, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 589
EXEMPTING EXPORTERS JOINING INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIRS, EXHIBITIONS,
SELLING MISSIONS, AMONG OTHERS, FROM PAYING THE TRAVEL TAX

WHEREAS, Republic Act (RA) No. 7844, otherwise known as the Export Development Act of 1994, provides, in Section 2, that the State shall evolve export development into a national effort as a policy;

WHEREAS, RA No. 7844 strengthened and institutionalized the Export Development Council (EDC) to approve and oversee the implementation of the Philippine Export Development Plan (PEDP);

WHEREAS, the PEDP prescribes the strategies to develop and promote the exports of Philippine products and services in the international market;

WHEREAS, the PEDP identifies the participation in international trade fairs, exhibitions, outbound business matching and selling missions as export promotion strategies, and also identifies the conduct of bilateral and multilateral trade engagements as means to gain market access;

WHEREAS, in order to implement these strategies, exporters have to travel to join trade fairs, exhibitions and missions; act as resource persons in trade negotiations; attend seminars and speaking engagements; and act as buying agents to support, promote and market Philippine export products in the global market;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Executive Order No. 283, dated July 25, 1987, authorizes the President to exempt certain sectors from the payment of the travel tax for reasons of national interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Exempt Purposes. – In view of the importance of exports to the economic growth of the country, exporters shall be exempted from the payment of travel tax whenever they travel for the following purposes:

- a. Participation in outbound or offshore business matching and selling missions organized or duly endorsed by the Bureau of Export Trade Promotion (BETP) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
- b. Attendance in international trade fairs and exhibitions organized or duly endorsed by the Center for Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM) of the DTI, the Export Development Council (EDC), or the accredited umbrella organization of exporters;
- c. Participation as official members of the Philippine delegation to trade negotiations and international conferences duly endorsed by the Bureau of International Trade Relations (BITR) of the DTI;
- d. Participation of agents or office representatives of buyers in promotion and marketing activities of Philippine export products in the international markets;

- e. Attendance in seminars pertaining to technology, productivity, and competitiveness enhancement duly endorsed by DTI; and
- f. Participation in international conferences relevant to international trade duly endorsed by the DTI.

SEC. 2. EDC Endorsement. – Request for availment of this exemption and the processing and issuance of the appropriate certificates shall be endorsed by the EDC upon recommendation of BETP, CITEM or the EDC-accredited umbrella organization of exporters.

SEC. 3. Procedure. – The procedure for availing of Travel Tax Exemption for exporters shall be as follows:

- a. Exporter secures a Recommendation for Travel Tax Exemption from the relevant organization such as the EDC-accredited umbrella export organization, its nearest regional chapter, BETP, CITEM or BITR.
- b. The relevant organization approves and issues the Recommendation and submits it to the EDC Secretariat.
- c. The EDC Secretariat endorses the Recommendation to the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA).
- d. The exporter proceeds to the PTA to claim the Travel Tax Exemption Certificate which will be presented to the carrier or its agent issuing the ticket.

SEC. 4. Limit. – The total Travel Tax Exemption granted for this purpose shall not exceed Twenty Million Pesos (P20M) annually.

SEC. 5. Separability. – Any portion or provision of this Executive Order that may be declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying its other portions or provisions, as long as such remaining portions can still be given effect.

SEC. 6. Repeal. – All executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. Effectivity. – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **8th** day of **December**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 590

DEACTIVATING THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION BENEFITS SYSTEM BY 31 DECEMBER 2006, DIRECTING THE TRANSFER OF ITS ASSETS IN TRUST TO A GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (“AFP”) Retirement and Separation Benefits System (“RSBS” or “System”) was established under Presidential Decree No. 361 issued on 30 December 1973 (PD 361) to provide the funding scheme for the payment of retirement and separation benefits provided under existing laws to military personnel of the AFP;

WHEREAS, under Section 5 of PD 361, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 1656 issued on 21 December 1979 (PD 1656), the funds of the RSBS shall be allowed to grow to be able to provide perpetually the cash requirement covering the retirement and separation benefit payments to military personnel on a self-sustaining basis, and that prior to the time when perpetual self-sufficiency of the funds of the RSBS is attained as determined by actuarial valuation, the yearly requirement for retirement and separation benefits of military personnel as provided under existing laws shall be fully funded out of the annual appropriations for the AFP;

WHEREAS, in the *Senate Blue Ribbon Committee Report* issued in 1998, the revision or creation of a new RSBS Charter was recommended, providing for a highly structured organization, with clearly defined powers and functions, and strict investment guidelines;

WHEREAS, in the *Feliciano Commission Report* issued in 2003, it was determined that the RSBS, in its present conception and structure, was “*fundamentally flawed*” and had not discharged its mandate. Accordingly, the Feliciano Commission recommended that the RSBS be liquidated in an orderly manner; that soldiers contributions be returned to them with interest and that an AFP Service and Insurance System be initiated, which shall be subject to the financial and investment disciplines of the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* (BSP) and the *Securities and Exchange Commission* (SEC);

WHEREAS, based on the *Financial Advisory Report* prepared by the *KPMG Laya Mananghaya & Co., Philippines* (hereinafter, the “KPMG Report”) on the financial status and condition of RSBS, the following conclusions were arrived at:

- a. Inappropriateness of RSBS’ investment portfolio, which consisted mainly of non-liquid assets (*i.e.*, real estate and equity investments in and advances to non-traded companies) that take a long time to dispose, are risky and with very low yields;
- b. Slow Fund build-up and inability to achieve its goal of self-sufficiency, caused primarily by the low rate of profitability of a majority of its assets, classified as non-productive and low-yielding;
- c. Illiquid position as a large portion of its assets is in non-earning or low-yielding investments; and

- d. Inability of RSBS to follow a Board Resolution, following the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee investigation of RSBS in 1998, to divest and liquefy all real estate assets and to focus on fixed-income investments.

WHEREAS, based on the 16th *Actuarial Valuation Report* rendered by Feliciano F. Miravite, Inc. dated 30 November 2005, it was concluded that the self-sufficiency projections under the current valuation estimate the point of self-sustaining status of RSBS to occur in the year 2058, and that the funds of the System shall be exhausted within 32 years after achieving self-sufficiency in the year 2090;

WHEREAS, the foregoing reports provided an indication of the estimated magnitude of RSBS' Fund deficiency, for the net assets of RSBS to be able to satisfy the retirement benefit payments due to retired/retiring military personnel under existing laws on the retirement benefits due them;

WHEREAS, the Secretaries of the Department of National Defense (DND), Department of Finance (DOF), and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), together with the Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines (CSAFP), have jointly recommended the deactivation and winding down of the RSBS since it does not and will not be able to attain its objective of attaining self-sufficiency, which means that the payment of retirement benefits to be given to retired/retiring military personnel shall continue to be funded by annual appropriations for the AFP in the General Appropriations Act (GAA);

WHEREAS, in order to insure that the Funds of the System shall be preserved for the payment of the refund of members' contributions as and when they fall or become due, it is necessary to deactivate the operations of the System in an efficient and orderly manner;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Deactivation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Retirement and Separation Benefits System.* – The Armed Forces of the Philippines Retirement and Separation Benefits System, a government instrumentality under the Executive Branch, is hereby deactivated, effective 31 December 2006.

SECTION 2. *Creation of Cabinet Oversight Committee.* – A Cabinet Oversight Committee is hereby created, composed of the *Secretary of National Defense*, the *Secretary of Finance*, the *Secretary of Budget and Management*, together with the *Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines (CSAFP)*, and a representative of the Office of the President designated by the President (hereinafter, the "COC-RSBS"). The COC-RSBS shall provide policy guidelines for, and oversee, the final liquidation of assets and liabilities of the RSBS, the winding-down of its operations, and the retirement and separation of its personnel, in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations, as well as the guidelines set forth in this Executive Order.

SECTION 3. *Specific Guidelines for Deactivation, Liquidation and Winding Down of RSBS.* – The deactivation of RSBS, particularly with respect to the liquidation of its assets and liabilities, as well as the winding-down of its operations, shall be subject to the following guidelines:

- 3.1. *Due Diligence of RSBS and its Subsidiaries.* – In order to accurately determine the financial condition of RSBS, including all of its Subsidiaries, particularly with respect to the actual value of its assets and liabilities for purposes of liquidation, the Secretary of National Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Finance, shall direct the conduct of a due diligence review of the books of RSBS and its Subsidiaries as of 30 June 2006;

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- 3.2. *Transfer of Assets to a Government Financial Institution Preparatory to Liquidation and Winding-Down.* – Upon determination of the net asset value of RSBS and its Subsidiaries, the current assets of the RSBS and its Subsidiaries, shall be transferred to a Government Financial Institution (GFI) [i.e., *Development Bank of the Philippines* (DBP) or *Land Bank of the Philippines* (LBP)] recommended by the Cabinet Oversight Committee created under Section 2 hereof (hereinafter, the “GFI Trustee”), for programmed liquidation (hereinafter, the “Transferred Assets”), whereby the GFI Trustee shall dispose of and liquidate as much of the Transferred Assets, in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations to be issued by the Cabinet Oversight Committee for the purpose;
- 3.3. *Trust Account.* -- The proceeds of the sale of the Transferred Assets shall, together with all the mandatory contributions of military personnel collected by the AFP as prescribed under Section 4 of PD 361 consisting of five percent (5%) of their monthly base pay, shall be remitted to a Trust Account, to be established by the GFI Trustee for the purpose.
- 3.4. *Professional Trust Management of Members’ Contributions.* – The funds in the Trust Account referred to in 1.3 hereof shall be placed under professional trust management of the GFI Trustee, or such other GFI professional fund manager to be approved by the Cabinet Oversight Committee, subject to such investment guidelines as may be prescribed in the rules and regulations to be jointly issued by the DND, DOF and DBM to implement this Executive Order;
- 3.5. *Return of Members’ Contributions.* – The return of members’ contributions as mandated under PD 1656, plus six percent (6%) interest upon the retirement of military personnel shall be paid from RSBS funds in the Trust Account as and when they fall due, and shall be guaranteed by the National Government.

SECTION 4. *Separation or Retirement of RSBS Personnel.* – All officers and employees affected by the deactivation of the RSBS as directed herein shall be retired or separated from the service, in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 6656, otherwise known as “*An Act to Protect the Security of Tenure of Civil Service Officers and Employees in the Implementation of Government Reorganization,*” and other applicable civil service laws, rules and regulations: *Provided,* That in the implementation of the provisions of RA 6656, the provisions of Republic Act No. 6758, entitled “*An Act Prescribing a Revised Compensation and Position Classification in the Government and For Other Purposes,*” otherwise known as the “*Salary Standardization Law*” shall be strictly complied with.

SECTION 5. *Assistance by the Government Corporate Counsel.* – The Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC), is hereby directed to assist the Cabinet Oversight Committee or the GFI Trustee on any aspect relating to the deactivation of the RSBS as directed herein.

SECTION 6. *New Philippine Military Retirement System.* – The DND is hereby directed to complete the study and prepare the draft legislation that shall establish and set up a new retirement and pension system for military personnel, that shall have strict guidelines on the organization of its Governing Board, particularly the investment parameters it is allowed to undertake in the course of the management of its funds. The provisions of the new retirement and systems law shall apply only to new recruits or entrants to military service, reckoned from the date of effectivity of the new retirement and pension system law.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 15th day of December, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 590-A

AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 590 DATED 15 DECEMBER 2006 ON THE
DEACTIVATION OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES RETIREMENT AND
SEPARATION BENEFITS SYSTEM BY 31 DECEMBER 2006, DIRECTING THE TRANSFER OF
ITS ASSETS IN TRUST TO A GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (“AFP”) Retirement and Separation Benefits System (“RSBS”) was established under Presidential Decree No. 361 (PD 361) issued on 30 December 1973 to provide for a funding system for the payment of retirement and separation benefits provided under existing laws to military personnel of the AFP;

WHEREAS, under Section 5 of PD 361, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 1656 issued on 21 December 1979, the funds of RSBS shall be allowed to grow to be able to provide perpetually the fund requirement necessary to cover the retirement and separation benefits due to military personnel on a self-sustaining basis: Provided, that prior to the time when perpetual self-sufficiency of the funds of the RSBS is attained as determined by actuarial evaluation, the yearly requirement for retirement and separation benefits of military personnel as provided under existing laws shall be funded out of the annual appropriations for the AFP;

WHEREAS, based on the earlier evaluation and study of the actuarial life and financial status of RSBS, it was projected to attain self-sufficiency by the year 2058 and is projected to have an actuarial life of 32 years or until the year 2090;

WHEREAS, after an exhaustive study and evaluation of the present financial and actuarial status of RSBS, the Secretaries of the Department of National Defense (DND), Department of Finance (DOF), and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), together with the Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines (CSAFP), have jointly recommended the deactivation and winding down of the RSBS on the ground that RSBS will not be able to attain self-sufficiency and its continued operations will be to the detriment of its members and the country.

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that the funds of RSBS shall be preserved for the refund of the contributions of members and to meet all other obligations of RSBS as they become due, it is necessary to deactivate the operations of RSBS in an efficient and orderly manner;

WHEREAS, there is a need to amend Executive Order No. 590 dated 15 December 2006 to further hasten the accomplishment of the objectives of the deactivation of the RSBS.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Deactivation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Retirement and Separation Benefits System.* – The Armed Forces of the Philippines Retirement and Separation Benefits System, is hereby deactivated, effective 31 December 2006.

SECTION 2. *Creation of the Cabinet Oversight Committee.* - A Cabinet Oversight Committee is hereby created composed of the *Secretary of National Defense*, the *Secretary of Finance*, the *Secretary of Budget and Management*, and a representative from the Office of the President as designated by the President (hereinafter referred to as “COC”). The COC shall exercise oversight function on the final liquidation of assets and liabilities of the RSBS, the winding-down of its operations, and the retirement and separation of its personnel, in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations, as well as the guidelines set forth in this Executive Order:

SECTION 3. *Specific Guidelines for the Deactivation, Liquidation and Winding Down of RSBS.* - The deactivation of RSBS, particularly with respect to the liquidation of its assets and liabilities, as well as the winding-down of its operations, shall be subject to the following guidelines:

- 3.1 *Due Diligence of RSBS and its Subsidiaries.* - In order to accurately determine the financial condition of RSBS, including all of its Subsidiaries, particularly with respect to the actual value of its assets and extent of its liabilities for purposes of liquidation, a due diligence review of the books of RSBS and its Subsidiaries shall be conducted;
- 3.2 *Transfer of Assets to a Government Financial Institution Preparatory to Liquidation and Winding-Down.* - Upon determination of the net asset value of RSBS and its Subsidiaries, all the assets of the RSBS and its Subsidiaries shall be transferred to a Government Financial Institution (GFI) determined by the COC (hereinafter referred to as the “GFI Trustee”), for programmed liquidation as necessary until all RSBS assets are exhausted;
- 3.3 *Trust Account.* - The proceeds of the sale or liquidation of the transferred assets and other existing funds of RSBS and its Subsidiaries shall, together with all the mandatory contributions of military personnel collected by the AFP as prescribed under Section 4 of PD 361 consisting of five percent (5%) of their monthly base pay shall be remitted to a Trust Account to be established by the GFI Trustee for the purpose;
- 3.4 *Professional Trust Management of Members’ Contributions.* - The Funds in the Trust Account referred to in Section 3.3 hereof shall be placed under professional trust management of the GFI Trustee, or such other professional fund manager to be approved by the Cabinet Oversight Committee, subject to such investment guidelines as may be prescribed in the rules and regulations to be jointly issued by the DND, DOF and DBM to implement this Executive Order;
- 3.5 *Return of Members’ Contributions.* - The contributions of its members shall be returned to them in accordance with existing laws plus interest of six percent (6%) upon the retirement of its members to be paid from the funds in the Trust Account established under Section 3.3 hereof and shall be guaranteed by the National Government.

SECTION 4. *Separation of RSBS Personnel.* - All officers and employees of RSBS and its Subsidiaries affected by the deactivation of the RSBS shall be retired or separated from the service in accordance with existing laws.

SECTION 5. *Assistance by the Government Corporate Counsel.* - The Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) is hereby directed to provide all the necessary assistance to the Cabinet Oversight Committee and/or any of its agencies relating to the deactivation of the RSBS as directed herein.

SECTION 6. *New Philippine Military Retirement System.* - The DND is hereby directed to complete the study and prepare a proposed legislation that shall establish and set up a new retirement

and pension system for military personnel which shall provide among others strict guidelines on the organization and powers of its Governing Board in accordance with the best practices in good governance and provide clear investment parameters that its Governing Board can be allowed to undertake in the course of the management of its funds.

SECTION 7. *Repeal.* All orders, issuances and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 31st day of January, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). [*Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 591
ADJUSTING THE DIVIDEND RATE OF METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS
AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM ON ITS 2005 NET EARNINGS PURSUANT
TO SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7656.

WHEREAS, Section 1 of Republic Act (RA) No. 7656 provides that:

“Section 1. Declaration of policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State that in order for the National Government to realize additional revenues, government-owned or controlled corporations, without impairing their viability and the purpose for which they have been established, shall share a substantial amount of their net earnings to the National Government.”

WHEREAS, Section 5 of RA 7656 provides that, “[i] the interest of national economy and general welfare, the percentage of annual net earnings that shall be declared by the government-owned or controlled corporations may be suggested by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation by the Secretary of Finance”;

WHEREAS, to support the viability and mandate of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), the liquidity, capital position, retained earnings and medium-term plans and programs of MWSS are considered in the determination of the reasonable dividend rates on its 2005 net earnings;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5 of RA 7656, the Secretary of Finance has recommended the adjustment on the percentage of 2005 net earnings that shall be declared by MWSS as dividend to the National Government, in the interest of national economy and general welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, do hereby order:

Sec. 1. The percentage of net earnings to be declared and remitted by the MWSS as dividends to the National Government as provided for under Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7656 is authorized to be adjusted to five percent (5%), or an equivalent amount of not less than P57.06M for 2005.

Sec. 2. The adjusted dividend rate provided for under Section 1 is only applicable on 2005 net earnings of the MWSS.

Sec. 3. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this **15th** day of **December**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 592
IMPOSING THE MANDATORY PAYMENT OF CONTAINER SECURITY FEE IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NON-INTRUSIVE CONTAINER INSPECTION SYSTEM (NCIS)
PROJECT OF THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND CREATING A TRUST
FUND FOR THE USE THEREOF

WHEREAS, under Section 602 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) is mandated to, among others, assess and collect lawful revenues from imported articles, prevent and suppress smuggling and other frauds against Customs, and exercise supervision and control over all import and export cargoes, landed or stored in piers, airports, terminal facilities, including container yards and freight stations, for the protection of government revenue;

WHEREAS, in the pursuit of trade facilitation and law enforcement, the BOC issued Customs Administrative Order (CAO) No. 1-2002 providing for the use of container x-ray machine as an alternative to actual physical examination to further speed up the examination of shipments and movement of cargoes;

WHEREAS, in line with such mandate, the BOC proposed to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board, and the latter approved, the Non-Intrusive Container Inspection System (NCIS) Project, which is the most reliable means of container content identification while at the same time improving accuracy and correctness of assessment and collection of duties and taxes; abating smuggling and the illegal entry of drugs and hazardous materials; and improving the inflow and outflow of containers through the ports;

WHEREAS, the NCIS Project, as embodied in the Framework of Bilateral Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China, provides for the acquisition by the BOC of its NCIS through the grant of a concessional loan by China and pursuant to a government-to-government (G-to-G) procurement arrangement;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the government-to-government (G-to-G) procurement arrangement, the BOC and Nuctech Co Ltd. of China, the company nominated by the Chinese government as being the only qualified supplier of the required container scanning machines, signed a purchase agreement for the procurement of the NCIS;

WHEREAS, the loan agreement between the BOC thru the Department of Finance and the Export-Import Bank of China, the bank nominated by the Chinese Government for the loan processing, was signed, thus, the purchase agreement entered into by and between the BOC and Nuctech Co. Ltd. has come into force and effect;

WHEREAS, to ensure the sustainability of the NCIS Project, the importers and/or exporters, being the direct beneficiaries, shall be charged a container security fee (CSF), for every importation/exportation that passes through any customhouse; and

WHEREAS, the CSF to be collected shall cover loan repayment, maintenance, operational costs and other related expenses.

NOW, THEREFORE, I GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Scope. - This Executive Order shall apply to all import and export cargoes, landed or stored in piers, airports, terminal facilities, including container yards and freight stations under the jurisdiction of the BOC.

Section 2. Container Security Fee. All shipments covered by this Executive Order shall be imposed the NEDA Board-approved mandatory container security fee (CSF) in Philippine currency equivalent to US\$50 for every forty-footer container or US\$25 for every twenty-footer container or twenty equivalent units (TEUs), provided that the Commissioner of Customs shall adjust the rates of the CSF in accordance with the schedule of fees as approved by the NEDA Board.

Section 3. Utilization of the CSF. The CSF shall be expended and utilized in the following manner:

- a. Seventy five percent (75%) shall be remitted to the National Treasury as part of the General Fund for the repayment of the concessional loan to China, including interest, fees and other charges attendant thereto.

After the completion of the concessional loan payment, the 75% allocation shall be deposited in a Trust Fund, hereinafter created, in addition to the 25% allocation.

- b. Twenty five percent (25%) shall be retained by the BOC and maintained as an administrative support system to be deposited in a Trust Fund for the sustainability of the NCIS Project including but not limited to the following purposes:

- b.1 Maintenance and improvement of the operation of the NCIS, including the upgrading thereof;
- b.2 Institutionalization of post audit procedures and processes;
- b.3 Fraud and fraud-related investigations and prosecutions;
- b.4 Training and related programs to enhance the capability and competence of personnel tasked to operate and maintain the system;
- b.5 Other activities and programs to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the system as the BOC may deem to be appropriate.

Section 4. Creation of a Trust Fund. A NCISP Trust Fund is hereby created and established which shall be sourced from the twenty five percent (25%) portion of the CSF collected as stated in Section 3, paragraph b of this Executive Order. A permanent committee created under Section 45, Chapter 5, Book VI of Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, shall monitor and evaluate the activities and the balances of the Trust Fund.

Section 5. Failure to follow the directives of this Executive Order shall subject concerned officials to administrative sanctions pursuant to existing laws, rules and regulations.

Section 6. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 15th day of December, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 593

DECLARING CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND OWNED BY THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICE SITUATED IN ALUBA HILLS, MACASANDIG, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, COVERED BY TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 10360 (LOT 2917-A, CAD-9856), AS HOUSING SITE AND PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND DISPOSITION IN FAVOR OF THE TELOF X EMPLOYEES HOUSING ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, it is the priority concern of the government to provide housing to homeless Filipinos in line with the Constitution and mandate of the state to protect and advance the right of the people to a balance and healthful ecology, decent living conditions and social justice;

WHEREAS, Section 8 of Republic Act (RA) 7279, otherwise known as the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA) of 1992, provides that government-owned lands which have not been used for the purpose for which they were intended for the past ten (10) years from the effectivity of R.A. 7279 may be disposed of for socialized housing purposes;

WHEREAS, government-owned lands as defined in the same section of the Act mentioned above include those owned or administered by the national government or any of its subdivisions, instrumentalities, or agencies, including government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs) and their subsidiaries;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 131, s. of 2002, directs the national government or any of its subdivisions, instrumentalities, or agencies, including GOCCs and their subsidiaries, to give full support and cooperation to HUDCC in the disposition of government-owned lands defined in Section 8 of the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA) of 1992;

WHEREAS, the Telecommunications Office (TELOF) formerly known as Bureau of Telecommunications (BOT) under the Commission on Information and Communication Technology, owns a parcel of land situated in Aluba Hills, Macasandig, Cagayan de Oro City covered by Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) No. T-10360 (Lot 2917-A, Cad-9856) with an approximate land area of forty-one thousand four hundred sixty-five square meters (41,465 sq. m.) under the name of the Republic of the Philippines (Bureau of Telecommunications);

WHEREAS, the TELOF has endorsed the segregation and disposition of approximately thirty-one thousand four hundred sixty-five square meters (31,465 sq. m.) of the property mentioned earlier, subject to final survey, as housing site for the members of the TELOF X Employees Housing Association;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby authorize and direct the following:

SECTION 1. Segregation and Disposition of Land as Housing Site. The Telecommunications Office (TELOF) shall segregate and dispose **THIRTY-ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE (31,465)** square meters, more or less, of its land covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-10360 (Lot 2917-A, Cad-9856) located in Aluba Hills, Macasandig, Cagayan De Oro City,

as housing site for the TELOF X Employees Housing Association, subject to private rights, if there be any, road right of way requirements, and to final survey.

SEC. 2. Administration and Development. The TELOF is hereby authorized to administer and develop the property to benefit the intended beneficiaries.

SEC. 3. Creation of the Inter-Agency (IAC). An Inter-Agency Committee shall be created, composed of the TELOF, as Chairman, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) as Co-Chairman, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and representative of the TELOF X Employees Housing Association as members. The IAC shall formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Executive Order.

SEC. 4. Funding Allocation. The TELOF, as the administrator of the housing site, shall facilitate the allocation of a budget to implement this Order, taking into account the funding requirement for various activities to be undertaken in connection hereof. The TELOF is authorized to provide the corresponding funds for the site development cost and other logistical requirements of this project.

SEC. 5. Separability Clause. In the event that any provision hereof is declared invalid by any competent court of tribunal, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 15th day of December, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 594
RULES GOVERNING THE APPOINTMENT / DESIGNATION AND
CONDUCT OF SPECIAL ENVOYS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 16, Book III of the Revised Administrative Code of 1987 (Executive Order No. 292), the President shall exercise the power to appoint officials as provided for in the Constitution and laws;

WHEREAS, the conduct of effective foreign policy often calls for the appointment/designation of persons with expertise and experience to undertake special tasks or address certain issues, notably in international economic affairs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. This Executive Order shall be known as the “Rules Governing the Appointment/ Designation and Conduct of Special Envoys”.

SECTION 2. The appointment/ designation of special envoy shall be accompanied by an express statement of the terms of reference of said appointment/ designation to be coordinated with the Department of Foreign Affairs, which shall include, among others, its specific mission and duration.

SECTION 3. Special envoy appointment/ designation shall be defined and categorized as follows:

- (a) specific mission or purpose
- (b) specific act or event
- (c) specific duration or period

Unless otherwise specified in the special envoy appointment/ designation paper or its terms of reference, the appointment/designation shall automatically expire upon the completion of the task or objective for which the mission, purpose, act or event was directed, or upon the termination of the duration or period indicated.

SECTION 4. Special envoy appointment/ designation shall be for a specific and expressly stated mission or purpose, or specified act or event. Unless the special envoy appointed/ designated is an official of the Department of Foreign Affairs or of another department or agency, said mission, purpose or act shall not overlap with the regular functions of the Department of Foreign Affairs and/or the Foreign Service or that of the other concerned department or agency, or its attaché services.

SECTION 5. Special envoy appointment/ designation shall contain a specific duration or period, or otherwise, a target date for the completion of the mission, purpose, act or event. Upon the expiry of the said appointment/ designation, a subsequent appointment/ designation shall be required for it to be considered renewed.

SECTION 6. The title “Special Envoy” shall be used only for the duration of the mission, purpose, act or event.

SECTION 7. A duly appointed/ designated special envoy may be entitled to the use of diplomatic or official passport, at the discretion of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Said diplomatic or official passport shall be used only for the duration of the mission. Once the appointment/ designation expires or lapses pursuant to Sec. 3 or 5 above, the diplomatic or official passport may be renewed only upon the presentation of a new appointment/ designation paper.

SECTION 8. Unless by virtue of his rank or the nature of the mission he is to report directly to the President, the special envoy shall report and perform his mission under the supervision of the following:

- (a) The Secretary of Foreign Affairs and
- (b) The Head of the Diplomatic or Consular Post where the mission will be carried out.

SECTION 9. The special envoy shall submit an accomplishment or progress report regarding the mission to the President through the Secretary of Foreign Affairs or the head of other concerned department or agency, within thirty (30) days upon the completion of the mission or term, or every six months, in case said mission or term exceed the latter period. The report should contain the salient points of the mission and his recommendations for follow-up action.

SECTION 10. All appointments/ designations as Special Envoy are considered expired subject to renewal based on specific mission, purpose, act or event and for a limited period of time not exceeding six (6) months.

SECTION 11. All executive order, rules and regulations, resolutions, memorandum circulars, and office memoranda inconsistent with these rules are hereby repealed or modified accordingly. Should any provision of this Executive Order be held invalid, the remainder hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 12. This Executive Order shall become effective fifteen (15) days after publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila this 20th day of December, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 595
ENSURING EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT PUBLIC HEALTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR
PREVENTION OF COMMON DISEASES THROUGH THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the State recognizes that the most common diseases and causes of mortality and morbidity are taking a great toll on the country's human and economic resources;

WHEREAS, the causes of the highest rate of mortality or morbidity in the country may be prevented by proper health and sanitation practices brought about by effective health education and awareness;

WHEREAS, public and private sector partnerships need to be harnessed for the fight against these leading causes of mortality and morbidity;

WHEREAS, the education and awareness on the prevention of the most common causes of morbidity and mortality among Filipinos are best achieved through integration with the health curriculum of primary and secondary levels;

WHEREAS, there is a need to reassess and review existing health curriculum of primary, secondary and collegiate levels in order to refocus the same from curative to preventive aspects of diseases and other top causes of mortality and morbidity in the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Title. – This Executive Order shall be known as the “Health Education Reform Order of 2006” (HERO of 2006).

SEC. 2. Scope and Coverage. – The education and common diseases awareness program shall cover the health curriculum of primary, secondary and collegiate levels all over the country.

SEC. 3. Preventive Health Education Curriculum. – Modules on basic preventive health care for the top causes of morbidity and mortality shall be integrated into the curricula of all private and public elementary schools, high schools, colleges and universities in the Philippines. In this regard, existing health curricula of all private and public elementary schools and high schools shall be refocused from curative to preventive aspect of the top causes of morbidity and mortality in the country or in the locality, as the case may be.

SEC. 4. Committee on HERO. – There is hereby created a Committee on Health Education Reform consisting of:

1. The Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) or his alternate whose rank shall not be lower than Assistant Secretary;
2. The Secretary of Health or his alternate whose rank shall not be lower than Assistant Secretary;
3. The Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) or his alternate who shall be one of the Commissioners of the CHED;
4. The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) or his alternate whose rank shall not be lower than Assistant Secretary;

5. Three (3) representatives from the private sector, i.e., two (2) from the medical profession (i.e. Philippine Medical Association [PMA], Philippine College of Physicians [PCP]) and one (1) from related or allied sectors, who shall be invited by the Committee upon the recommendation of recognized medical groups or associations – to formulate and prepare modules on basic preventive health care for the top causes of morbidity and mortality and to adopt evaluation monitoring scheme for the said modules. The Committee shall be Co-Chaired by the Secretaries of the DepEd and DOH.

For this purpose, the Committee on HERO or its individual members may enter into Memoranda of Agreement with recognized medical associations and groups to ensure continued participation of the private sector in this important endeavor. Further, the participating agencies, as well as the Committee on HERO, may receive donations from third parties in form of cash or kind for the furtherance of the objectives of this Executive Order, subject to pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

The Committee on HERO may create a Technical Working Group (TWG) consisting of officers from the DepEd, DOH, DOST, CHED and the TESDA from the government sector, as well as representatives from the private sector, which shall recommend the evaluation scheme with success metrics/parameters with timelines, necessary modifications to the program, and report the overall impact of the program on the healthcare and educational system.

SEC. 5. Time Devoted to Health Subject and Integration. – The DepEd, through its Curriculum Divisions, shall determine the appropriate number of hours to be devoted to health subjects with emphasis on the preventive aspect of top causes of mortality and morbidity and how to integrate the same into the current Science and Health curricula of primary and secondary schools.

SEC. 6. Initial List of Modules Coverage. – Modules will cover risk factors for the prevention and treatment of the top ten causes of mortality and morbidity in the Philippines.

SEC. 7. Verification of Scientific Data. – The DOH shall check the validity and accuracy of all scientific data on which the modules are based. The Secretary of Health shall certify the scientific accuracy of the modules as well as the completeness of the content appropriate to the understanding of the disease condition and its prevention.

SEC. 8. Designation of Modules for Education Level. – It shall be the responsibility of the Committee on HERO to determine the modules appropriate for student appreciation of the concepts for each level in elementary and high school and design of the grade and year-level modules to achieve the same.

The DepEd shall appoint a Committee of teachers in both elementary and high school levels for every Regional Office who shall be trained in the modules and who will in turn plan, together with relevant DOH personnel, the cascade of the teaching module to all teachers.

SEC. 9. Modules for Collegiate and Postgraduate Healthcare Professionals. – Specific modules on the following topics, among others, for the use of collegiate levels shall be developed by the Committee on HERO: (a) Preventive, Public and Community Health; (b) Management and Leadership concepts to emphasize health care; (c) Professional and Community Leader Ethics and Professionalism; and (d) Health Economics. The modules to be created shall instill love of country and a sense of social responsibility among the health professionals in the fields of medicine, nursing, medical technology, pharmacy and allied professions.

The CHED shall work with the private sector in the implementation of these modules.

SEC. 10. Pilot Areas. – The DepEd and DOH may jointly identify Pilot Areas for the immediate implementation of this EO, giving major consideration on the prevalence of the top ten causes of mortality and morbidity, as well as the poverty incidence, in the particular area.

SEC. 11. Funding. – Initial expenses of the Committee on HERO shall be equally divided among the member-agencies from their respective budgets. However, the funding for the development of and cascading of modules, as well as printing of materials, shall be derived from such sources as may be determined by the Department of Budget and Management. Thereafter, the same shall be included in the budgets of the member agencies in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. – All executive issuances, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. Separability Clause. – If any section or provision of this executive order shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 14. Effectivity – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the city of Manila, this 27th December, in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 596

DEFINING AND INCLUDING “GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITY VESTED WITH CORPORATE POWERS” OR “GOVERNMENT CORPORATE ENTITIES” UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CORPORATE COUNSEL (OGCC) AS PRINCIPAL LAW OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS (GOCCs) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC), as the principal law office of all Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), including their subsidiaries, other corporate offsprings and government acquired assets corporations, plays a very significant role in safeguarding the legal interests and providing the legal requirements of all GOCCs;

WHEREAS, there is an imperative need to integrate, strengthen and rationalize the powers and jurisdiction of the OGCC in the light of the Decision of the Supreme Court dated July 20, 2006, in the case of “*Manila International Airport Authority vs. Court of Appeals, City of Parañaque, et al.*” (G.R. No. 155650), where the High Court differentiated “*government corporate entities*” and “*government instrumentalities with corporate powers*” from GOCCs for purposes of the provisions of the Local Government Code on real estate taxes, and other fees and charges imposed by local government units;

WHEREAS, in the interest of an effective administration of justice, the application and definition of the term “GOCCs” need to be further clarified and rationalized, to have consistency in referring to the term and to avoid unintended conflicts and/or confusion;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) shall be the principal law office of all GOCCs, except as may otherwise be provided by their respective charter or authorized by the President, their subsidiaries, corporate offsprings, and government acquired asset corporations. The OGCC shall likewise be the principal law office of “*government instrumentality vested with corporate powers*” or “*government corporate entity*”, as defined by the Supreme Court in the case of “*MIAA vs. Court of Appeals, City of Parañaque, et al.*”, *supra*, notable examples of which are: Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), Mactan International Airport Authority, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC), Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Services (MWSS), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PRRI), Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), Fisheries Development Authority (FDA), Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA), Cebu Port Authority (CPA), Cagayan de Oro Port Authority, and San Fernando Port Authority.

SECTION 2. As provided under PD 2029, series of 1986, the term GOCCs is defined as a stock or non-stock corporation, whether performing governmental or proprietary functions, which is directly chartered by a special law or if organized under the general corporation law, is owned or controlled by

the government directly, or indirectly, through a parent corporation or subsidiary corporation, to the extent of at least a majority of its outstanding capital stock or of its outstanding voting capital stock.

Under Section 2(10) of the Introductory Provisions of the Administrative Code of 1987, a government “instrumentality” refers to any agency of the National Government, not integrated within the department framework, vested with special functions or jurisdiction by law, endowed with some, if not all corporate powers, administering special funds, and enjoying operational autonomy, usually through a charter.

SECTION 3. The following corporations are considered GOCCs under the conditions and/or circumstances indicated:

- a) A corporation organized under the general corporation law under private ownership at least a majority of the shares of stock of which were conveyed to a government financial institution, whether by foreclosure or otherwise, or a subsidiary corporation of a government corporation organized exclusively to own and manage, or lease, or operate specific assets acquired by a government financial institution in satisfaction of debts incurred therewith, and which in any case by enunciated policy of the government is required to be disposed of to private ownership within a specified period of time, shall not be considered a GOCC before such disposition and even if the ownership or control thereof is subsequently transferred to another GOCC;
- b) A corporation created by special law which is explicitly intended under that law for ultimate transfer to private ownership under certain specified conditions shall be considered a GOCC, until it is transferred to private ownership;
- c) A corporation that is authorized to be established by special law, but which is still required under that law to register with the Securities and Exchange Commission in order to acquire a juridical personality, shall not, on the basis of the special law alone, be considered a GOCC.

SECTION 4. The terms “parent corporation”, “subsidiary” and/or “affiliate” shall have the following meanings and legal signification:

- a) A parent corporation is one which is created by special law;
- b) A subsidiary corporation is one organized under the general corporation law (1) under private ownership at least a majority of the shares of stock of which were conveyed to a government corporation in satisfaction of debts incurred with a government financial institution, whether by foreclosure or otherwise, or (2) as a subsidiary corporation of a government corporation organized exclusively to own and manage, or lease, or operate specific physical assets acquired by the government financial institution in satisfaction of debts incurred therewith, and which in any case by enunciated policy of the government is required to be disposed of to private ownership within a specified period of time;
- c) An affiliate corporation is one where total government ownership comprises less than the majority of its outstanding capital stock and its outstanding voting capital stock.

SECTION 5. All executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. This Executive Order shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from date of publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, on this **29th** day of **December** in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2006). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 597

EXTENDING FURTHER THE DURATION OF OPERATIONS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MIDDLE EAST PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE (PMEPC) TO JUNE 30, 2007

WHEREAS, the term of the Presidential Middle East Preparedness Committee (PMEPC) expired on December 31, 2006 pursuant to Executive Order (EO) No. 549 dated July 18, 2006;

WHEREAS, tension in the Middle East continues to exist particularly in Iraq and also in its neighboring countries, including Lebanon, Syria, and Israel, which poses serious threats to the security of overseas Filipino workers in these areas;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for the PMEPC to continue to assess and monitor developments and update contingency measures to ensure the safety of Filipinos in the Middle East, notably in such countries above mentioned, and to uphold the current ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq;

WHEREAS, the PMEPC is also tasked to provide continuing assistance to the Department of Foreign Affairs, as well as to other government agencies concerned with OFW safety, security, and protection, in the formulation and implementation of policies, plans, and modes of coordination in such areas as East Timor and the Korean Peninsula;

WHEREAS, under Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of the Administrative Code of 1987, the President has the continuing authority to reorganize the functions of the Office of the President.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the extension of the duration of the PMEPC to June 30, 2007, or unless otherwise directed by the President.

SECTION 1. Function. - The PMEPC shall continue to exercise its functions and responsibilities as provided under Executive Order No. 159 dated December 23, 2002, in relation to Executive Order No. 194 and Executive Order No. 195, both dated April 14, 2003, until June 30, 2007.

SECTION 2. Composition - The membership of the Committee, as enumerated under Section 3 of Executive Order No. 159, as amended by Executive Order No. 549, is further expanded to include one representative from the Bureau of Immigration.

SECTION 3. Funding - The Committee shall be provided an additional funding allocation of **FIVE MILLION PESOS (Php5,000,000.00)** for its administrative and operational expenses to be provided by the Office of the President. Additional financial requirements that may be needed by the Committee shall be sourced out by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) from available funds of the concerned agencies forming part of the PMEPC, subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 4. Repeal - All other rules, regulations and issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Effectivity - This Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 12th day of January, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 598

PLACING THE KALOOKAN-MALABON-NAVOTAS-VALENZUELA FLOOD CONTROL AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, flood control in Metro Manila is part of the mandate of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA);

WHEREAS, public works in Metro Manila have previously been placed under the operational control of the MMDA;

I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by the powers vested in me by the Constitution and by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. The Kalookan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela Flood Control and Drainage System Improvement Project (KAMANAVA Project) shall be place under the operational control of the MMDA;

Section 2. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall retain administrative supervision over the KAMANAVA Project. However, the Secretary of the DPWH shall consult the Chairman of the MMDA on matters of KAMANAVA Project senior personnel movements.

Section 3. This Executive Order takes effect immediately.

DONE this 1st day of January in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 599
ADJUSTING THE DIVIDEND RATE OF NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION ON ITS 2005
NET EARNINGS PURSUANT TO SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7656

WHEREAS, Section 1 of Republic Act (RA) No. 7656 provides that:

“Section 1. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State that in order for the National Government to realize additional revenues, government-owned or controlled corporations, without impairing their viability and the purpose for which they have been established, shall share a substantial amount of their net earnings to the National Government.”

WHEREAS, Section 5 of RA 7656 provides that: “[i] the interest of national economy and general welfare, the percentage of annual net earnings that shall be declared by the government-owned or controlled corporations may be adjusted by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation by the Secretary of Finance”;

WHEREAS, to support the viability and mandate of the National Power Corporation (NPC), the liquidity, capital position, retained earnings and medium-term plans and programs of NPC were considered in the determination of the reasonable dividend rates on its 2005 net earnings;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5 of RA 7656, the Secretary of Finance has recommended the adjustment on the percentage of 2005 net earnings that shall be declared by NPC as dividend to the National Government, in the interest of national economy and general welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The percentage of net earnings to be declared and remitted by the NPC as dividends to the National Government as provided for under Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7656 is authorized to be adjusted to three (3%) percent for 2005, or an equivalent amount of not less than P2.6 Billion.

SECTION 2. The adjusted dividend rate provided for under Section 1 is only applicable on 2005 net earnings of the NPC.

SECTION 3. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 18th day of January, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 600
ADJUSTING THE DIVIDEND RATE OF NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE
CORPORATION ON ITS 2004 AND 2005 NET EARNINGS PURSUANT TO
SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7656

WHEREAS, under Section 1 of Republic Act No. 7656, it is declared policy of the state that in order for the National Government to realize additional revenues, government owned and/or controlled corporations, without impairing their viability and the purposes for which they have been established, shall share a substantial amount of their net earnings to the National Government;

WHEREAS, Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7656 provides that “*in the interest of national economy and general welfare, the percentage of annual net earnings that shall be declared by a government owned and/or controlled corporation may be adjusted by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation by the Secretary of Finance*”;

WHEREAS, the viability, liquidity, capital position, retained earnings and medium term plans and programs and mandate of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation were considered in the determination of the reasonable dividend rates on its 2004 and 2005 net earnings;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5 of RA 7656, the Secretary of Finance recommended the adjustment of the percentage of dividend rate for 2004 and 2005 that shall be declared by NHMFC to the National Government, in the interest of national economy and general welfare;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The percentage of net earnings to be declared and remitted by the NHMFC as dividends to the National Government as provided for under Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7656 is authorized to be adjusted to five percent (5%), or an equivalent amount of not less than Php 36.207 Mn for 2004 and Php 29.105 Mn for 2005.

SECTION 2. The adjusted dividend rate provided for under Section 1 is only applicable on 2004 and 2005 net earnings of the NHMFC.

SECTION 3. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 1st day of February, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 501 - 600]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 601

ADJUSTING THE DIVIDEND RATE OF LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (LBP) ON ITS 2003, 2004 AND 2005 NET EARNINGS PURSUANT TO SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7656

WHEREAS, under Section 1 of Republic Act No. 7656, it is the declared policy of the state that in order for the National Government to realize additional revenues, government owned and/or controlled corporations, without impairing their viability and the purposes for which they have been established, shall share a substantial amount of their net earnings to the National Government;

WHEREAS, Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7656 provides that *“in the interest of national economy and general welfare, the percentage of annual net earnings that shall be declared by a government owned and/or controlled corporations may be adjusted by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation by the Secretary of Finance”*;

WHEREAS, to support the viability and mandate of LBP, their liquidity, capital position, retained earnings and medium term plans and programs were considered in the determination of reasonable dividend rates; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7656, the Secretary of Finance recommended the adjustment on the percentage of dividend rates for 2003, 2004 and 2005 net earnings that shall be declared by LBP to the National Government, in the interest of national economy and general welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The percentage of dividends for years 2003, 2004 and 2005 to be remitted by LBP to the National Government, which are composed of:

YEAR	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
2005	At least eight hundred million	23.00% cash
	(P800 M) cash and five hundred million (P500 M) stock dividends	14.00% non-cash
2004	At least seven hundred million	18.00% cash
	(P700 M) cash and six hundred million (P600 M) stock dividends	15.40% non-cash
2003	At least six hundred million (P600 M) cash and eight hundred	14.01% cash
	seventy one million (P871 M) stock dividends	20.33% non-cash

SECTION 2. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **9th** day of **February**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 602
CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE LANAO ADVISORY COUNCIL
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, there exist sixteen Royal Sultanates which are recognized in the provinces of Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte, the cities of Marawi and Iligan and some municipalities in Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon;

WHEREAS, the sixteen Royal Sultanates have manifested their willingness to participate and contribute towards the development of Mindanao and the promotion of peace in their area;

WHEREAS, there is a need for a council that can advise the President regarding issues and problems in the aforementioned area, facilitate the settlement of conflicts and assist in the implementation of government programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Creation of the Lanao Advisory Council– There is hereby created a Lanao Advisory Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, which shall advise the President on matters concerning and/or affecting the areas where the sixteen Royal Sultanates are recognized, facilitate the settlement of conflicts and assist the government in the implementation of government programs in said areas.

SECTION 2. Composition of the Council. – Each of the sixteen Royal Sultanates shall be entitled to equal representation in the Council. Each of the Sultanate shall be represented by their respective Sultan. The Sultans shall thereafter elect among themselves the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council.

SECTION 3. Duties and Functions of the Council

The Council shall have the following duties and functions:

- a. Give advice and recommendations to the President on matters that will promote peace and development within the area concerning and/or affecting their areas of responsibility;
- b. Facilitate the peaceful settlement of conflicts in their area of responsibility;
- c. Assist the government in the implementation of its programs within their area of responsibility;
- d. Perform such other functions and duties as may be assigned by the President of the Philippines.

The Council shall submit to the President quarterly reports on its accomplishments and activities.

SECTION 4. Funding – The Council shall be provided an annual funding of **ONE MILLION PESOS (Php 1,000,000.00)** for its administrative and operational expenses to be sourced from the budget of the Office of the President.

SECTION 5. Repeal – All other rules, regulations and issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity - This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila this 9th day of February, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 603

TRANSFERRING THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICE (TELOF) AND ALL OTHER
OPERATING UNITS DIRECTLY SUPPORTING COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (CICT) TO
THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AND COMMUNICATIONS (DOTC)

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 292, series of 1987, dated July 25, 1987, otherwise known as the “Administrative Code of 1987” mandates the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) to be the primary policy, planning, programming, coordinating, implementing, regulating and administrative entity of the Executive Branch of the government in the promotion, development and regulation of dependable and coordinated networks of communications systems as well as in the provision of fast, efficient and reliable communications services;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 269, series of 2004, which created the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) has placed the Telecommunications Office (TELOF) and all other operating units then existing in DOTC which directly support Communications, including the Telecommunications Policy and Planning Office, under the direct supervision and control of the CICT;

WHEREAS, reverting to DOTC direct control and supervision of TELOF and all other operating units currently existing in CICT, including the Telecommunications Policy and Planning Office, which directly support Communications, is necessitated by the present demands of national development and concomitant development projects as it will streamline bureaucracy operations and effectively promote fast, efficient and reliable networks of communication system and services;

WHEREAS, under Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of EO No. 292, the President of the Republic of the Philippines has continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Executive Branch and to transfer any agency under the Office of the President to another department or agency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Telecommunications Office and all other operating units currently existing in CICT which directly support communications, including the Telecommunications Policy and Planning Office, are hereby placed under the direct supervision and control of the Department of Transportation and Communications.

SECTION 2. These Offices shall continue to carry out their organizational mandates and objectives.

SECTION 3. All executive issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **13th** day of **February**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 604
CREATING THE PRESIDENTIAL COORDINATING COUNCIL ON
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, technology is the foundation of future economic development.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Creation of the Presidential Coordinating Council on Research and Development (R & D Council), composed of the following:

- | | | |
|------------|---|---|
| Chair | – | President of the Philippines |
| Vice Chair | – | Secretary of Science and Technology |
| Members | – | Secretary of Agriculture |
| | | Secretary of Budget and Management |
| | | Secretary of Energy |
| | | Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources |
| | | Secretary of Foreign Affairs |
| | | Secretary of Health |
| | | Secretary of National Defense |
| | | Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning |
| | | Secretary of Trade and Industry |
| | | Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education |
| | | Chairman of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology |
| | | President of the National Academy of Science and Technology |
| | | President of the National Research Council of the Philippines |
| | | Five (5) representatives from the private sector |
| | | Two (2) representatives from organizations of scientists and engineers engaged in research and development. |

Section 2. Powers and Functions. – The R & D Council shall:

- a. Review the institutional arrangements for coordinating the R & D activities of departments, agencies, academe, business sector and non-government organizations and recommend an appropriate regular and permanent institutional arrangement for coordinating and overseeing the allocation of R & D budgets to government departments, agencies and state colleges and universities with the objective of attaining private and public sector R & D funding increases to 0.5% of the country's Gross Domestic Product by 2010.

- b. Recommend a system of establishing priority R & D areas where government funding should be directed.
- c. Institute appropriate measures to establish a monitoring and evaluation system for both public and private R & D institutions that use public funds.
- d. Recommend mechanisms, structures and measures to encourage greater private R & D funding as well as international funding for R & D initiatives.
- e. Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the President.

Section 3. Secretariat and Technical Working Group. – The R & D Council shall have a Secretariat composed of personnel drawn primarily from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

The R & D Council may create technical working groups to be composed of technical staff from member organizations and the DOST sectoral planning councils.

Section 4. Funding. – The activities and operational expenses of the R & D Council shall be funded from the DOST budget appropriations.

Section 5. Repealing Clause. – All executive issuances, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 6. Separability Clause. – If any section or provision of this Executive Order shall be declared unconstitutional or valid, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 7. Effectivity. – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 16th day of February, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 605
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE STRUCTURE, MECHANISMS AND STANDARDS TO
IMPLEMENT THE GOVERNMENT QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 161, S. 2006

WHEREAS, Administrative Order (AO) No. 161 “Institutionalizing Quality Management Systems in Government” was issued on 5 October 2006 as one of the National Competitiveness Summit (NCS) Action Agenda to effect actual improvements in public governance in recognition of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9000 series which ensures consistency of products and services through quality processes;

WHEREAS, said AO directs the Departments of Budget and Management-Organization and Productivity Improvement Bureau (DBM-OPIB), the Department of Trade and Industry-Bureau of Product Standards (DTI-BPS) and the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) to constitute a committee to formulate the necessary institutional structure, mechanisms and standards to implement the Government Quality Management Program (GQMP), in consultation with relevant Constitutional bodies such as the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Commission on Audit (COA);

WHEREAS, for the effective implementation of the law, there is a need to identify with more particularly the guidelines in the pursuit of the components of the GQMP, including the expansion in its coverage, and the necessary structure that shall formulate the policies and oversee the GQMP;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Institutionalization of Quality Management Systems in Government. All departments and agencies of the Executive branch, including all government-owned and/or controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs), are hereby directed to adopt the ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management Systems as part of the implementation of a government-wide quality management program. The quality management systems shall be certified for demonstrated conformity with ISO 9001:2000 and the applicable Government Quality Management Systems Standards (GQMSS), with priority to be given to frontline services.

The State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) are likewise enjoined to establish ISO Quality Management Systems (ISO-QMS) and be certified accordingly. The Local Government Units (LGUs), Judiciary, the Legislature and the Constitutional offices are also encouraged to develop ISO-QMS and pursue certification.

SECTION 2. Objectives of the Government Quality Management Program (GQMP). The Government Quality Management Program aims to:

1. Promote and enhance public sector performance through the adoption of ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management Systems in all agencies of government;

2. Develop an institutional infrastructure that shall provide certification with international accreditation;
3. Establish the citizens' charter of key government offices that shall be provided to the transacting public as government's manifestation of service guarantee; and
4. Recognize citizen-driven government organizations that have attained ISO 9001:2000 certification for other government agencies to emulate.

SECTION 3. Components of the GQMP. The GQMP shall have the following key components:

1. Government Quality Management Systems Standards. This component shall involve the development of a guidance document and the adaptation of relevant ISO management systems and standards that integrate relevant provisions of pertinent laws and/or rules and regulations to develop a culture of quality and integrity in governance characterized by citizen-focused and well-performing government organizations.
2. Advocacy and Capability Building. This component is expected to promote awareness, generate support, harness resources, and develop organizational capabilities in the establishment, implementation and continuing improvement of quality management systems in public sector organizations.
3. Certification of Agencies' QMS to GQMSS. The Philippine Certification for ISO Quality Management Systems (PISO-QMS) shall be established to give due recognition to qualified government organizations that have demonstrated conformity of their QMS to ISO 9001:2000 and the GQMSS. As such, this component shall establish the structure and mechanisms to ensure the credibility of all aspects of certification in line with said standards.

SECTION 4. Institutional Structure and Mechanisms. There is hereby created a Government Quality Management Committee (GQMC) to formulate policies and oversee the implementation of the GQMP.

1. Composition of the GQMC. The GQMC shall be composed of the heads of the following agencies:
 - (a) Department of Budget and Management as Chairman;
 - (b) Department of Trade and Industry as Co-Chairman;
 - (c) Department of the Interior and Local Government as member;
 - (d) Office of the President-Internal Audit Office as member; and
 - (e) Development Academy of the Philippines as member.
2. Functions of the GQMC. The GQMC shall have the following specific powers and functions:
 - (a) Serve as the steering and policy-making body for the GQMP;
 - (b) Approve the standards, guidelines and institutional mechanisms to implement the program;
 - (c) Coordinate with Leagues and LGUs in the formulation of standards and mechanisms to be adopted by the latter to ensure GQMS certification at the local level;
 - (d) Coordinate with specific departments and agencies to attend to, or address constraints in the implementation of relevant Program activities;

- (e) Formulate necessary mechanisms to sustain the implementation of ISO-QMS among public sector organizations, including measures to fund the effort, as well as recognition/incentive schemes for Program participants;
- (f) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the GQMP and, when necessary, effect appropriate adjustments thereon in the light of changing conditions in both the domestic and international environments; and
- (g) Submit progress reports to the President.

3. *Resource Persons.* The GQMC may invite representatives from the COA, CSC, local leagues and local chief executive as its resources persons.

4. *Technical Working Group of the GQMC.* The GQMC shall establish technical working groups (TWG) for the effective implementation of the GQMP, when it deems it necessary.

5. *Secretariat.* The GQMC shall organize a secretariat to provide technical and administrative support to the GQMC. The Secretariat shall report directly to the GQMC and be manned by personnel of the member agencies of the GQMC.

SECTION 5. Funding. The implementation of the GQMP at the agency level shall be funded by the existing appropriations of departments/agencies. The DBM Secretary is likewise authorized to set aside funds in pursuit of certain Program activities.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations and Guidance Document. The GQMC shall immediately issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations and the guidance document.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. Provisions of existing administrative issuances, rules and regulations regarding the institutionalization of quality management systems in Government inconsistent with this Order are hereby repealed accordingly.

SECTION 8. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect upon its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 23rd day of February, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By authority of the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 606

**PURSuing SUSTAINABLE UPLAND DEVELOPMENT ANCHORING ON FOOD, WOOD
AND NON-WOOD SECURITY AND ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY AND PROVIDING THE
MECHANISMS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, a sustainable approach to the development of the natural environment through effective governance and improved delivery of basic services to the marginalized sector of society is called for by the government's development agenda, the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (2004 - 2010) and the commitment to the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals;

WHEREAS, there is a need to pursue a paradigm shift or refocusing to ensure sustainable development and livelihood in the countryside, specifically in upland areas, through rehabilitation and adoption of programs geared towards producing high value crops and trees;

WHEREAS, the country's land area is comprised largely of upland and forestlands, covering more than 50% of the 30 million hectares of land, with a big portion of occupied and tilled by marginalized people such as upland farmers, indigenous peoples and tribal groups, who mostly belong to the socially and economically displaced and disadvantaged sectors of society;

WHEREAS, the continuing problems of poverty and internal conflict are mostly brought about by the unequal access and control and inequitable distribution of the benefits over the country's limited natural resources and productive areas, especially in the uplands;

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is the primary government agency responsible for the conservation, management, protection and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources specifically forest lands and other lands of the public domain;

WHEREAS, under the Local Government Code of 1991, the national government, specifically the DENR, shares with the Local Government Units (LGUs) the responsibility in the sustainable management and development of forest and natural resources, as exemplified under Joint Memorandum Circular signed by the DENR and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and witnessed by the different Leagues of LGUs in 2003 and as early as 1998;

WHEREAS, LGUs have been supporting and addressing the problems of their constituency in the uplands and have initiated innovative and exemplary practices in sustainable upland development, such as co-management of natural resources, community-based forestland use planning, forest protection, resource management, rural road maintenance and agricultural and forestry extension services, in line with the principles of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM);

WHEREAS, three (3) rural development agencies of the national government, namely the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and the DENR, under the convergence policy, have institutionalized the DA-DAR-DENR Convergence Initiative to address rural development efforts of the government. This convergence towards sustainable rural development was formalized through Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 01, series of 1999, signed by the three Secretaries of said agencies and revitalized through JMC 2004-01. Further, JMC 2006-01 mandated

the “Adoption of the Guide for Implementation on DA-DAR-DENR Convergence Initiatives towards Sustainable Rural Development;”

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Community Based Forest Management strategy supports SFM and convergence initiatives among legally-mandated agencies working in the uplands and the local initiatives to effectively address poverty in upland areas;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to strengthen the existing development framework between national government and local government agencies for the improved delivery of basic services and development programs, specifically in the upland areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the pursuit of sustainable upland development anchoring on food, wood and non-wood security and economic productivity that leads to the improvement in the quality of life of upland communities, increase economic productivity of upland areas, and ensure sustainable management of the country’s forest resources.

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the state to pursue sustainable development of the country’s upland areas and communities by ensuring a proper balance between ecological and economic concerns in a manner that the forests natural resource base is maintained and improved. At the same time this would promote economic activities in the uplands through agricultural and forest production and utilization of upland resources to generate sufficient income for the communities residing and making a living in the uplands.

It is further declared as state policy to ensure the equitable access to and enjoyment of the benefits of development and use of uplands by the marginalized segments of the population and preserve and conserve these benefits and developments not only for the present generation of Filipinos but also the future generation.

SEC. 2. Basic Guiding Principles and Strategies. As a matter of policy, the operationalization of the country’s sustainable upland development strategy at the local levels shall be consistent with the principles of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), adopting primarily the Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) strategy in the conduct of community mobilization, local land-use planning, delivery of basic social services, extension services, forest protection and resource management, rural infrastructure and development of local enterprises and livelihood activities. Furthermore, the implementation of sustainable upland development shall also be based on the following:

- 1) Co-management is the principle of institutionalizing mutual cooperation and collaborative partnership between national and local government institutions as well as local communities in the performance and implementation of legally-mandated responsibilities, roles and functions in the development and management of the uplands;
- 2) Convergence is the integration, complementation and maximization of institutional, technical, resource, financial and human resources of all the key stakeholders in the upland areas, especially among national and local government agencies; and
- 3) Participatory Governance involves directly capacitating and fully involving local government units (LGUs) and communities in the whole process of formulating, planning, implementing and monitoring of all development activities and programs in the uplands.

SEC. 3. Scope and Coverage. The sustainable development of the uplands shall encompass and cover lands that are classified as forestlands, including allowable zones within protected areas. The key activities and areas of concern in support of the development of the uplands are outlined below, but not limited thereto:

- 1) Identify and review convergence and impact of key programs and interventions provided by national and local agencies, including donor-assisted projects and programs to upland communities and areas;
- 2) Review and assess the effectiveness and efficiencies of capacities and operations of key national and local agencies in the implementation and performance of their mandates in the uplands;
- 3) Review and assess the consistency and applicability of existing national implementing policies, guidelines and program in addressing the needs and conditions of upland areas and communities;
- 4) Identify, formulate, develop and recommend specific programs of actions and interventions to support the sustainable development of upland areas and communities; and
- 5) Identify key policy reforms and recommendations to strengthen delivery and effectiveness of programs and initiatives in the uplands.

SEC. 4. Agency Involvement. The DENR shall be the lead agency for the implementation of the sustainable upland development order, assisted by the DA and the DAR.

SEC. 5. Institutional Arrangement. The Sustainable Upland Development Steering Committee is hereby created to oversee the implementation of this Order, chaired by the DENR, and the following as members: DA, DAR, DILG, and the Presidential Adviser on Agrarian Reform. The heads of various national LGU Leagues, such as the League of Provinces, League of Cities, League of Municipalities, and the Liga ng mga Barangays, are also encouraged to join the meetings of the committee. At the regional/provincial/city/municipality level, parallel committees created under the convergence initiatives with the provincial/municipal chief executives as chair, shall be adopted.

SEC. 6. Duties and Responsibilities of Key Agencies Involved:

- 1) DENR
 - a) To call upon all national and local agencies for technical, policy, information and resource assistance and support;
 - b) Initiate and conduct national and regional discussions and consultations relating to policies, objectives and programs of actions for sustainable upland development;
 - c) Review and translate specific recommendations into operational guidelines of national concern, programs and initiatives, key areas and themes in coordination with national and local agencies for sustainable upland development;
 - d) Initiate and enhance partnership and coordinating activities with private sector groups, donor agencies and other relevant external bodies;
 - e) Provide assistance to the program beneficiaries in the packaging and marketing of products derived from the project areas including resource mobilization;
 - f) Submit regular reports and updates to the Office of the President and other relevant agencies.
- 2) DA
 - a) Assist the DENR in the identification of suitable crop combinations and cropping systems;
 - b) Assist the DENR in the transfer of appropriate and tested technologies to program beneficiaries;

- c) Provide assistance to the program beneficiaries in the packaging and marketing of products derived from the project areas including resources mobilization.

3) DAR

- a) Provide assistance in the conduct of capability building and enhancement programs for the beneficiaries;
- b) Provide assistance to the program beneficiaries in the packaging and marketing of products derived from the project areas including resources mobilization.

4) DILG

- a) Ensure coordination at the local level as well as execution/implementation of projects;
- b) Provide assistance to the program beneficiaries in the packaging and marketing of products derived from the project areas including resources mobilization.

SEC. 7. LGU Participation. The LGUs are encouraged to assist (1) in convening the provincial/municipal committees created under the Convergence Initiative for the identification of specific roles and functions, (2) in recommending specific programs/projects and interventions, (3) in formulating specific administrative and operational guidelines related upland development in coordination with members of related committees, (4) in identifying sources of funds to ensure the delivery of needed services and implementation of specific programs/projects, and (5) in providing assistance to the program beneficiaries in packaging and marketing of products derived from the project areas including resources mobilization.

SEC. 8. Technical Assistance. The DENR shall tap the support services of the different technical working groups under the DA-DAR-DENR Convergence towards Rural Development and the DENR-DILG-LGU partnership as well as other individuals and institutional experts and specialists from both national and local technical agencies.

SEC. 9. Funding. Funds needed to carry out the provisions of this Executive Order shall be taken from available funds of the DENR, DA and DAR. Other sources of funds such as grants, donations, and other forms of technical and resource assistance from donor agencies, projects and other public or private entities may be tapped and facilitated by the DENR, DAR, DA, DILG and all the Leagues (Provincial/Municipal/City/Barangay) to support the objectives and activities identified under this Executive Order subject to regular auditing guidelines and procedures.

SEC. 10. Separability. Any portion or provision of this Executive Order that may be declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other provisions hereof, as long as such remaining provisions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

SEC. 11. Repeal. All rules and regulations, other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **27th** day of **February**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 607
CREATING AN INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR THE
MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT

WHEREAS, the Philippines, a Threshold Country, has yet to qualify as a Compact Eligible Country to avail of the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Assistance.

WHEREAS, there is a need to demonstrate our country's commitment to meeting the MCA eligibility requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Task Force MCA. There is hereby created an inter-agency task force hereinafter referred to as Task Force MCA, which shall be attached to the Department of Finance.

SECTION 2. Composition. The Task Force shall be chaired by the Secretary, Department of Finance, with the Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and the Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority as Members.

SECTION 3. Mandate. Task Force MCA shall endeavor to meet the essential requirements to make the Philippines qualify as a compact eligible country.

SECTION 4. Powers and Functions. The Task Force MCA shall have, among others, the following functions:

- a.) Provide third-party sources used by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) with correct, updated data on the Philippines.
- b.) Develop proper reporting systems and formats as required by third-party.
- c.) Perform such other powers and functions as may be necessary or incidental to its mandate.

SECTION 5. Secretariat. The Secretary of Finance may designate such officials or employees as he deems necessary to function as the Secretariat for the Task Force.

SECTION 6. Funding. Funding for the task force may be sourced from available funds of DOF and DFA, subject to existing accounting and auditing laws and procedures.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Executive Order is declared invalid, the remainder thereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees and orders or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately following its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 5th day of March, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 607-A

AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 607 BY TRANSFERRING ATTACHMENT OF THE
INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 607 (series of 2007) created the inter-agency Task Force Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) attached to the Department of Finance.

WHEREAS, now more than ever, there is an urgency to demonstrate our country's commitment to meeting the MCA eligibility requirements;

WHEREAS, the President has the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby amend Executive Order No. 607 as follows:

SECTION 1. *Transfer of Task Force MCA to OP.* – The attachment of Task Force MCA is hereby transferred from the Department of Finance to the Office of the President.

SECTION 2. *Composition.* – The Task Force MCA shall be composed of the Executive Secretary as Chairman and the following as Members:

*The Secretary of Finance

*The Secretary of Foreign Affairs

*The Director General, National Economic and Development Authority

SECTION 3. *Funding.* - Funding for the task force may be sourced from available funds of the Office of the President, subject to existing accounting and auditing laws and procedures.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* - All executive issuances or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity.*- This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 25th day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2009). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 608
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SECURITY CLEARANCE SYSTEM FOR GOVERNMENT
PERSONNEL WITH ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED MATTERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the government is always at constant risk of being infiltrated by a group or individual for a purpose which is inimical to national interest;

WHEREAS, these groups/individuals rely on infiltrating and/or developing contacts within the bureaucracy to be their source of intelligence and other relevant information, particularly on classified or sensitive information and materials in order to accomplish their unlawful objectives;

WHEREAS, it is the duty and responsibility of all government departments, agencies and offices to implement security measures that will protect and ensure the integrity and sanctity of classified or sensitive materials or information they have access to or in their possession;

WHEREAS, Memorandum Circular No. 78 dated August 14, 1964 and Memorandum Circular No. 196 dated July 19, 1968 were promulgated to ensure against unauthorized access or disclosure of information and classified matters which could cause grave damage to the government or national interest;

WHEREAS, there is a need to develop and institutionalize a uniform Security Clearance System that is national in scope to cover all government personnel who by reason of their function or their office have access or can have access to classified information or documents;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby order and direct the following:

Section 1. *Institution of an Interim Security Clearance*

a. All heads of government offices or agencies handling or having access to classified matters shall strictly implement and institutionalize the security clearance procedure approved by the Office of the National Security Adviser regarding the conduct of a comprehensive background investigation on their personnel who by reason of their duty or employment, have access to classified matters as defined under Memorandum Circular No. 78 as amended by Memorandum Circular No. 196 dated July 19, 1968. It is only after passing the said security clearance procedure can the department, agency or office issue an Interim Security Clearance in favor of said employee. Only the head of the department, agency or office concerned or their designated representative can issue the Interim Security Clearance.

b. The heads of departments and/or agencies of the government or their designated agents or instrumentalities, shall before issuance of the Interim Security Clearance, issue a certification that after strictly complying with the security clearance procedure, the officer or employee is cleared to have access to classified matters indicating therein the level of such access or category of classified information to which such personnel is authorized to have access.

c. Each department, agency or office of the government granting the Interim Security Clearance shall establish and maintain a Security Investigation Index for all personnel granted such Interim Security Clearance. The records of investigation(s) and the kind of clearance(s) issued shall be made

a permanent part of the personnel's 201 file. The Index shall contain the date of the investigation, the type of investigation conducted, the location of the investigative file, the date the clearance was granted, the signature of the authority granting such clearance and the category or level of classified matters to which such personnel is authorized to have access.

d. The heads of departments and/or agencies shall designate a Security Officer who shall assume responsibility for implementing and maintaining the security clearance system in their respective jurisdiction.

e. Personnel granted an Interim Security Clearance or Security Clearance shall not disclose, share, publish or use the information contained in the classified documents or materials in any way that violates the clearance issued to them or without proper authority.

Section 2. *Institution of Security Clearance*

a. The head of the department, agency or office of the government or their designated representatives shall forward the names of their personnel granted an Interim Security Clearance which have access to materials classified as Secret and above to the Office of the National Security Adviser/Office of the National Security Director (ONSA/ONSD), through the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA). The NICA, on its own or upon request, shall subject to further background investigation any personnel granted an Interim Security Clearance. The NICA may request the assistance of any government department, agency or office in the performance of this function.

b. The NICA, upon processing of the information obtained, shall forward its recommendations for the issuance of a Security Clearance granting access on a "need to know" basis to materials classified as Secret and above or non-issuance thereof to the ONSA/ONSD for approval. All decisions by the ONSA/ONSD in this regard, including the validity period for any Security Clearance issued, shall be forwarded to the department, agency or office concerned for its information and implementation.

c. The Security Clearance issued by the ONSA/ONSD shall remain valid until its expiration unless revoked earlier.

Section 3. *Appeal*

A party desiring to appeal the decision of the ONSA/ONSD may file their appeal to the Office of the President in accordance with law.

Section 4. *Limitation Clause*

The provisions of this Order shall apply to government personnel with access to or are handling classified documents and all those contemplated to be granted such authority.

Section 5. *Implementing Guidelines*

a. The NICA, in coordination with the Intelligence Community and relevant departments and agencies, shall formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulations subject to the approval of the National Intelligence Board (NIB) for the effective implementation of this Order.

b. For this purpose, NICA shall undertake measures to acquire the capability to accomplish its task as mandated in this program.

Section 6. *Administrative Liability*

Any unauthorized disclosure, sharing, publication or use of the information contained in the classified documents or materials shall be considered a grave offense and shall be punishable in accordance with civil service rules and regulations. The filing of an administrative case against an erring personnel or officer does not preclude the filing of any other appropriate criminal or civil case for the same violation/s.

Section 7. *Repeal or Amendment*

All issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order shall be deemed repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 8. *Effectivity*

This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 30th day of March, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 609

FURTHER ENHANCING EMPLOYABILITY BY DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO ADMINISTER A VOLUNTARY EXAMINATION FOR THE NURSES LICENSED PURSUANT TO THE JUNE 2006 BOARD OF NURSING EXAMINATION AND PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE VOLUNTARY EXAMINEES

WHEREAS, the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) recently decided that Philippine nurses licensed pursuant to the Board of Nursing (BON) Examination of June 2006 shall not be eligible for the grant of *VisaScreen* Certificates;

WHEREAS, the CGFNS significantly noted that a retake of and passing the equivalent of Tests III and V of the June 2006 BON Examination in a Board Examination administered by Philippine regulatory authorities shall remedy the eligibility problem of nurses;

WHEREAS, the CGFNS likewise urged Philippine authorities to give these nurses the opportunity to retake the abovementioned equivalency tests without the need of surrendering their licenses;

WHEREAS, in response to this call and as a measure of enhancing the employability of our nurses, the Government deems it appropriate to immediately act through the Department of Labor and Employment, which has immediate supervision and control over the Professional Regulation Commission and the BON.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Special Voluntary Examination. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), acting through the Board of Nursing (BON) and utilizing the administrative processes of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), shall administer a special voluntary examination to the nurses licensed pursuant to the June 2006 BON Examination.

SEC. 2. Examination, when taken. The special voluntary examination shall be offered in the June 2007 and December 2007 BON Examination and may be taken once at either dates, at the voluntary examinee's choice, and shall be for the equivalent of Tests III and V of the June 2006 BON Examination. The results of these tests shall not affect the validity of the licenses previously issued to the voluntary examinees.

SEC. 3. Examination Process. The application for special voluntary examination shall be filed with the PRC under the same administrative processes for the application for examination of regular BON examinees, and the examination itself shall be conducted in the same manner and under the same security safeguards observed for regular BON examinations. The DOLE Secretary, through his representatives, shall monitor all stages of the voluntary examination process.

SEC. 4. Examination Results reported directly to the DOLE Secretary. The BON, after correction of the special voluntary examination papers and tabulation of results, shall report the results solely to the DOLE Secretary, not to the PRC to whom the regular BON Examination results are reported in the regular course of things.

SEC. 5. Dissemination of Results. The DOLE Secretary and the BON Chair, upon receipt of the results, shall:

- a) Undertake the public release of the names of those who passed the examination;
- b) Notify the individual examinees; and
- c) Furnish the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) with the official results and with such information about the regularity of the examination as the CGFNS may require.

SEC. 6. Waiver of Examination Fees. The PRC is directed to waive the collection of application fees from the voluntary examinees of the June 2007 and December 2007 special voluntary examinations, as was the case in the re-take ordered by the courts and implemented in the December 2006 BON Examination.

SEC. 7. Designation of Special Review Centers. The DOLE Secretary is hereby authorized to designate schools that are either recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as centers of excellence in nursing or with the highest passing rates in nursing examinations in their area, in such numbers and with such geographic distribution as the Secretary shall determine, as special review centers through which the Government may channel the financial assistance it shall provide for the review of voluntary examinees, to ensure the integrity of the preparatory stage of the examination process and to provide the best review opportunities for the voluntary examinees.

SEC. 8. Promulgation of Additional Guidelines. The DOLE Secretary shall promulgate the additional guidelines necessary to effectively implement this Executive Order. The PRC and the BON are hereby directed to provide the fullest coordination, support and cooperation to carry out the terms of this Order into effect.

SEC. 9. Funding. The amount of Twenty Million Pesos (₱20,000,000.00) required for the administration of the special voluntary examination shall be chargeable against appropriate funding sources as may be identified by the Secretary of Budget and Management.

SEC. 10. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 12th of March, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 610
TRANSFERRING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OVER THE BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS
OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

WHEREAS, Section 3 of Republic Act No. 8492 placed the National Museum under the Office of the President (OP) solely for budgetary purposes;

WHEREAS, Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution provides that the President shall have control of all executive departments, bureaus and offices and shall ensure that all laws be faithfully executed;

WHEREAS, paragraph 2, Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of Executive Order No. 292 grants the President the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President and the power to transfer any function under the Office of the President to any other Department;

WHEREAS, the Department of Education can best perform the responsibility mandated by Republic Act No. 8492 with respect to the budgetary requirements of the National Museum considering that it used to be an independent unit under the said Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL - ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Transfer to the Department of Education. The responsibility of the Office of the President under Section 3 of Republic Act No. 8492 over the budgetary requirements of the National Museum is hereby transferred to the Department of Education.

SECTION 2. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **13th** day of March, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 611
AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS TO GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL

WHEREAS, an efficient and effective civil service is crucial to the continuous development of our country;

WHEREAS, the basic salary of government employees has not been increased since July 2001, or for more than 5 years, notwithstanding periodic wage adjustments granted to the private sector, and the continuous rise in the prices of basic commodities;

WHEREAS, the subsistence allowance of the military and uniformed personnel was last adjusted in 1998, while the hazard pay has remained at P120/month since its initial grant in 1987;

WHEREAS, there is an imperative need to improve the morale of the civil service through a more competitive compensation system that supports the economic well being of government personnel;

NOW THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by Presidential Decree (P.D.) No. 985, P.D. No. 1597, Republic Act (R.A.) No. 6758, as amended by the Senate and House of Representatives Joint Resolution No. 1 dated March 7, 1994, and R.A. No. 9336, do hereby order:

Section 1. *New Salary Schedule of Civilian Government Personnel.* - The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is hereby directed to implement a ten percent (10%) increase over the basic monthly salaries as of June 30, 2007 of civilian government personnel whose positions are covered by the Compensation and Position Classification System under R.A. No. 6758, as amended, effective July 1, 2007.

The adjusted salaries of civilian government personnel shall be in accordance with the Salary Schedule marked as Annex "A" of this Executive Order: Provided, That the adjustments shall be the designated salary step of the employee in the salary grade allocation of his or her position as of June 30, 2007.

Section 2. *Subsistence Allowance and Hazard Pay of Military and Uniformed Personnel.* - Military personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and all uniformed personnel under the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Philippine Coast Guard, and National Mapping and Resource Information Authority are hereby granted a Thirty Pesos (P30) per day increase in their subsistence allowance and a One Hundred Twenty Pesos (P120) per month increase in their hazard pay effective July 1, 2007.

Section 3. *Coverage* - The ten percent (10%) salary increase authorized herein shall cover civilian officials and employees of National Government Agencies (NGAs) including State Universities and Colleges, Government Owned and/or Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), Government Financial Institutions (GFIs) and Local Government Units (LGUs), which are covered by the Compensation and Position Classification System under R.A. No. 6758, as amended.

Government agencies which are exempted by law from the coverage of R.A. No. 6758, as amended, shall not be entitled to any of the compensation adjustments provided herein.

Section 4. *Fund Source.* - The amounts necessary to implement the compensation adjustments authorized herein shall be sourced, as follows:

- a.) For NGAs, the amount shall be charged against the appropriate fund source under the FY 2007 General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amounts as are needed shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
- b.) For GOCCs and GFIs, the amount shall be taken from their respective corporate funds.
- c.) For LGUs, the amount shall come from their respective local funds.

Section 5. *Uniform Percentage Increase in Case of Insufficiency of Funds.* – GOCCs, GFIs and LGUs, which do not have adequate or sufficient funds to pay the compensation adjustments authorized herein, shall only partially implement the adjusted rates: Provided, that any partial implementation shall be at a uniform percentage increase for all positions.

Section 6. *Allowances and Benefits Based on a Percentage of the Basic Salary of Civilian Personnel.* – Except for the year-end bonus and fixed personnel benefit contributions, there shall be no corresponding increase in the present allowances and benefits being received by or paid for civilian government personnel, which are computed at a percentage of their basic salaries, notwithstanding the ten percent (10%) salary increase authorized herein.

Section 7. *Applicability to Certain Constitutional Officials.* - The salary increase authorized herein for the President, Vice-President, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives shall take effect only after the expiration of the respective terms of office of the incumbent officials pursuant to Section 10 of Article VI and Section 6 of Article VII of the 1987 Constitution.

Section 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DBM shall prepare and issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Executive Order.

Section 9. *Effectivity.* - The compensation adjustments authorized herein shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

Manila, Philippines, 14 March 2007

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Reference: Annex “A”

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 612

**REORGANIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS-MARITIME AND OCEAN
AFFAIRS CENTER INTO THE COMMISSION ON MARITIME AND OCEAN AFFAIRS UNDER
THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 738 dated October 3, 1981 established the Cabinet Committee on the Treaty on the Law of the Sea (CABCOM-LOS) tasked with the implementation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in all its aspects;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 328 dated June 5, 1988 reconstituted the CABCOM-LOS by increasing its membership from six (6) to twelve (12);

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 186 dated July 12, 1994 expanded the coverage of the CABCOM-LOS and renamed it as the Cabinet Committee on Maritime and Ocean Affairs (CABCOM-MOA);

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 132 dated July 30, 1999 strengthened the CABCOM-MOA and its supporting mechanisms by establishing a Technical Committee, with the CABCOM-MOA Secretariat being renamed as the Maritime and Ocean Affairs Center (MOAC);

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 37 dated September 21, 2001 abolished the CABCOM-MOA and upgraded the status of the MOAC by designating it as an attached agency of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), thereby expanding the functions and responsibilities of the DFA Secretariat upon which the functions of the defunct CABCOM-MOA was devolved;

WHEREAS, the effective development, implementation and continuous updating of a Philippine marine policy is of vital importance to the country as an archipelagic State and maritime nation, defining its sovereignty, national security, territorial integrity and control over marine, mineral, oil and other alternative sources of energy from the ocean, and other resources;

WHEREAS, the vital significance of the oceans and seas and its governance is universally acknowledged and enshrined in the 1982 UNCLOS;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory to various international agreements on the seas and oceans, principally the UNCLOS, which entered into force on November 16, 1994, as well as other international instruments such as the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21;

WHEREAS, the various policy issues related to oceans and maritime policy impacting on the Philippines as an archipelagic State, demand no less than a dedicated, focused, expert and full-time office with ample resources to address the multifaceted aspects of maritime concerns;

WHEREAS, Section 20, Chapter 7, Title I, Book III of EO No. 292 grants the President residual powers to reorganize the Executive Branch of government.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Commission on Maritime and Ocean Affairs. – The Department of Foreign Affairs-Maritime and Ocean Affairs Center (DFA-MOAC) is hereby reorganized and immediately set up under the Office of the President as the Commission on Maritime and Ocean Affairs (CMOA).

SEC. 2. Mandate. The CMOA shall have overall jurisdiction and direction over policy-formulation, implementation and coordination with other departments and experts, both foreign as well as local, on maritime issues.

SEC. 3. Composition. – The CMOA shall be composed of the Executive Secretary as Chair, the Secretary of Justice and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs as Vice-Chairs, and the following as members: Department of National Defense (DND), National Security Council (NSC), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), the Solicitor General (SolGen), the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel (CPLC), National Mapping and Resources Information Authority (NAMRIA), and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

The CMOA chair may call on other agencies for assistance in the performance of its mandate and tasks.

SEC. 4. Role of DFA. – The DFA shall remain the Lead Agency in the conduct of the Philippines' participation in international meetings, conferences, and negotiations on maritime and oceans policy including maritime boundary delimitation. It shall also function as the Secretariat of the CMOA.

SEC. 5. Funding. – The CMOA shall be provided with an initial funding of Fifty Million Pesos (Php 50,000,000.00) to be drawn from funds of the Office of the President subject to the established accounting and auditing rules and regulations. Appropriations for the succeeding fiscal years shall be incorporated in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. Technical Working Group. – The CMOA may create such Technical Working Groups as may be necessary to accomplish its mandate and tasks.

SEC. 7. Separability. – Any portion or provision of this Executive Order that may be declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying its other portions or provisions, as long as such remaining portions can still be given effect.

SEC. 8. Repeal. – All executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. – This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 27th day of March, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 612-A
AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 612, SERIES OF 2007

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 612 dated March 27, 2007, reorganized the Department of Foreign Affairs-Maritime and Ocean Affairs Center into the Commission on Maritime and Ocean Affairs (CMOA) under the Office of the President, and defined therein the composition of the Commission;

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy has scientific and technical expertise and resources that are significant to the accomplishment of the mandate and tasks of CMOA;

WHEREAS, the DOE has been actively participating in the scientific technical work involved in the identification of the Philippine baselines and in the preparation of the submission to the United Nations of the country's claim for extended continental shelf;

WHEREAS, in order to be able to fully contribute its knowledge and expertise, the DOE should be an integral part of the CMOA;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Section 3 of Executive Order No. 612 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 3. Composition. – The CMOA shall be composed of the Executive Secretary as Chair, the Secretary of Justice and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs as Vice-Chairs, and the following as members: Department of National Defense (DND), National Security Council, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), the Solicitor General (SolGen), the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel (CPLC), National Mapping and Resources Information Authority (NAMRIA), and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).”

Sec. 2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 17th day of December, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 613

MODIFYING THE RATES OF DUTY ON CERTAIN IMPORTED ARTICLES AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMITMENT TO REDUCE TARIFF RATES ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS INCLUDED IN THE NORMAL TRACK OF THE ASEAN-CHINA FREE TRADE AREA

WHEREAS, the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation (Framework Agreement) between the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China (China) was signed by the Heads of Government/State of the ASEAN Member States and China on 4 November 2002 in Cambodia;

WHEREAS, Articles 2(a), 3(1), and 8(1) of the Framework Agreement reflect the Parties' commitment to establish the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) covering trade in goods by 2010 for ASEAN 6 and China, and by 2015 for the newer ASEAN Member States;

WHEREAS, the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement was signed by the Economic Ministers of the Parties on 29 November 2004 in Laos;

WHEREAS, Article 3(2)(a) of the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement provides that tariff lines placed in the Normal Track by each Party shall have their respective applied MFN tariff rates gradually reduced and eliminated in accordance with the modalities set out in Annex 1 of the Agreement with the objective of achieving the targets prescribed in the threshold therein;

WHEREAS, the aforesaid Annex 1 of the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement provides that ASEAN 6 and China shall implement the following tariff reduction schedule for products in the Normal Track by 1 July 2005; (a) applied MFN tariff rates above 20% shall be reduced to 20%; (b) applied MFN tariff rates from 15% to 19% shall be at 15% (c) applied MFN tariff rates from 10% to 14% shall be at 10% (d) applied MFN tariff rates from 6% to 9% shall be reduced to 5% and (e) applied MFN tariff rates from 0% to 5% shall be maintained;

WHEREAS, the NEDA Board approved on 14 January 2007, the reduction in tariff rates on 2,203 tariff lines in compliance with the modalities set out in the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement;

WHEREAS, Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978 (PD 1464), as amended, empowers the President of the Republic of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority, to increase, reduce or remove existing protective rates of import duty, as well as to modify the form of duty;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The articles specifically listed in *Annex "A"* (Articles Granted Tariff Concession Under the Normal Track of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area) hereof, as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be subject to the ACFTA rates in accordance with the schedule indicated in Columns 4-6 of *Annex "A"*. The ACFTA rates so indicated

shall be accorded to imports coming from the parties of the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement applying tariff concession to the same product pursuant to Article 3 of the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement.

SEC. 2. For ASEAN 9 (i.e. Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao Peoples Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) the applicable rate shall be the ACFTA or the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) rate whichever is lower, subject to the submission of the proper Certificate of Origin, Form E or D. The Tariff Commission pursuant to Section 1313(a) of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, may, upon request, issue tariff classification rulings to confirm the applicable rates of duty of particular products subject to this section.

SEC. 3. In the event that any subsequent change is made in the basic (MFN) Philippine rate of duty on any of the article listed in *Annex "A"* to a rate lower than the rate prescribed in Columns 4-6 of *Annex "A"*, such article shall automatically be accorded the corresponding reduced duty.

SEC. 4. From the date of effectivity of this Order, all articles listed in Annex "A" entered into or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption shall be imposed the rates of duty therein prescribed subject to compliance with the Rules of Origin as provided for in Article 5 of the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement or Article 2.4 of the Agreement on the CEPT Scheme for the AFTA.

SEC. 5. All presidential issuances, administrative rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Done in the City of Manila, this 17th day of April, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). [*Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 614

TRANSFERRING THE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISION OF THE OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT OVER THE TECHNOLOGY AND LIVELIHOOD RESOURCE CENTER (TLRC),
HEREAFTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE CENTER (TRC),
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS, the Technology Resource Center (TRC) was created as a corporate body by Presidential Decree No. 1097 on 23 February 1977;

WHEREAS, following its creation, the TRC functioned as an attached agency of the then Ministry of Human Settlements;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 10 was issued by then President Corazon C. Aquino placing all offices, agencies, and corporations attached to the Ministry of Human Settlements to the Office of the President;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the said executive order, the TRC, which later became known as the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC), was placed under the administrative supervision of the Office of the President;

WHEREAS, Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution provides that the President shall have control of all executive departments, bureaus, and offices and shall ensure that all laws be faithfully executed;

WHEREAS, the President of the Philippines has continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President by, among others, transferring any agency under the Office of the President to any other department or agency of the Government pursuant to paragraph 3, Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of Executive Order No. 292;

WHEREAS, to better monitor the exercise of powers and the performance of the functions and responsibilities of the TLRC, it is imperative to transfer the administrative supervision over the agency to the Department of Science and Technology;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL - ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Transfer of Administrative Supervision to DOST. The administrative supervision of the Office of the President over the Technology Livelihood and Resource Center is hereby transferred to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

SECTION 2. Renaming TLRC. The Technology Livelihood and Resource Center shall be known as Technology Resource Center.

SECTION 3. Repealing Clause. All executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 29th day of March, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 615

MANDATING THE TRANSFER OF THE NAYONG PILIPINO CULTURAL PARK TO THE 15-HECTARE PROPERTY OF THE PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY AREA IN PARAÑAQUE, AND THE TRANSFER OF 15 HECTARES OF NAYONG PILIPINO FOUNDATION PROPERTY TO THE PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, under Executive Order No. 111 dated 26 June 2002, the President of the Philippines directed, among others, the closure and cessation of the park operations of Nayong Pilipino Cultural Park pending its redevelopment, except for purposes of overseeing, maintaining and preserving the assets of the park and of the Nayong Pilipino Foundation (NPF);

WHEREAS, under Executive Order No. 135 dated 21 October 2002, the President of the Philippines directed NPF to look for an alternative site for a new Nayong Pilipino Cultural Park;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) is the registered owner of a 15-hectare parcel of land located at the Central Business Park-1 Island B & C along the ASEAN Avenue, inland Channel and Bay Boulevard in the Manila Bay Reclamation Area in Parañaque (PRA Property);

WHEREAS, the NPF has identified the PRA property as an appropriate site for its new Cultural Park;

WHEREAS, the Nayong Pilipino and the PRA executed a Memorandum of Agreement relative to the exchange of their respective properties covering fifteen (15) hectares each in Pasay City and Parañaque City;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

1. The Nayong Pilipino Cultural Park shall transfer to the 15-hectare PRA Property in Parañaque City.
2. The Nayong Pilipino Foundation shall transfer to PRA its 15 hectares property in Pasay City.
3. The Register of Deeds for Parañaque and Pasay Cities shall effect the immediate transfer of titles to implement this Order.
4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **2nd** day of **April**, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 616
CREATION OF THE ANTI-HUNGER TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the latest quarterly survey on hunger conducted by the Social Weather Stations reported that 19% or 3.3 million families suffer from involuntary hunger;

WHEREAS, the Accelerated Hunger-Mitigation Program is the landmark program of the Arroyo Government to address hunger both on the aspect of supply or the unavailability or insufficiency of food and on the aspect of demand or the inability to buy food;

WHEREAS, the National Nutrition Council, by virtue of Executive Order 472, was tasked to ensure a client-based operations and to undertake necessary steps to prioritize addressing hunger and malnutrition;

WHEREAS, the National Nutrition Council, by virtue of the Memorandum from the President dated 06 July 2006, was directed to oversee the implementation of the Accelerated Hunger-Mitigation Program as formulated by the National Economic and Development Authority to cut hunger incidence by half in one (1) year;

WHEREAS, the Accelerated Hunger-Mitigation Program is implemented by national government agencies based on hunger-mitigation program framework;

WHEREAS, in view of the current hunger situation, it is imperative to further accelerate actions to mitigate hunger in six (6) months;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law do hereby order the following:

Section 1. *Creation of the Anti-Hunger Task Force.*

The Anti-Hunger Task Force is hereby created composed of national government agencies implementing the component programs of the Accelerated Hunger-Mitigation Program (AHMP). The Task Force will closely work with faith-based organizations to widen the reach of the program among the poor and hungry households in the National Capital Region and the identified priority provinces of the country.

Section 2. *Composition.*

2.1 The Anti-Hunger Task Force shall be composed of the following agencies:

Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)
Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC-DAR)
Department of Agriculture (DA)
Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR-DA)
Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI-DA)

Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF)
National Food Authority (NFA-DA)
National Irrigation Administration (NIA-DA)
Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA-DA)
Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
Philippine Forest Corporation (PFC-DENR)
Department of Education (DepEd)
Department of Health
Commission on Population (POPCOM)
Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
Philippine National Police (PNP)
Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
Technical Skills and Development Authority (TESDA)
Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)
Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC)
Philippine Ports Authority (PPA-DOTC)
National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
Office of the President
Commission on Higher Education
National Anti-Poverty Commission
Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA)
People's Credit Finance Corporation (PCFC)
Armed Forces of the Philippines
Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines/National Social Action Center

2.2 The National Nutrition Council of the Department of Health shall lead the Task Force to ensure that hunger-mitigation measures are in place.

Section 3. *Duties of the Task Force.*

3.1 The Department Secretary/Head of the above-mentioned agencies shall serve as the Anti-Hunger Focal Person of his/her department. He/she shall:

- a. fast track the implementation of his/her agency's hunger-mitigation component program/s;
- b. ensure timely disbursement of funds for the implementation of said program/s;
- c. monitor the implementation of his/her agency's hunger-mitigation component program and report to the President, through the DOH-National Nutrition Council, its progress of implementation;
- d. provide the public with correct information about his/her hunger-mitigation component program; and
- e. provide other assistance as may be needed to carry-out the functions and duties of the Task Force.

3.2 The DOH-National Nutrition Council shall:

- a. serve as the oversight agency for the implementation of the AHMP;
- b. monitor the implementation of program components of the AHMP by the implementing agencies; and
- c. report to the President and the Cabinet the progress of the implementation of the AHMP.

Section 4. *Effectivity*. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 3rd day of April, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 617

MODIFYING THE RATES OF DUTY ON CERTAIN IMPORTED ARTICLES AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMITMENT TO REDUCE THE COMMON EFFECTIVE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF RATES OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS TO ZERO PERCENT UNDER THE ASEAN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR THE INTEGRATION OF PRIORITY SECTORS

WHEREAS, at the 10th ASEAN Summit held in Vientiane on 29 November 2004, the ASEAN Heads of Government/State signed the ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors hereinafter referred to as the “*Framework Agreement*”;

WHEREAS, the objective of the Framework Agreement is to enable the progressive, expeditious and systematic integration of priority sectors through the identification of measures to be implemented with clear timelines, in a mutually beneficial manner, by the ASEAN Member States;

WHEREAS, Article 2 of the Framework Agreement identifies eleven (11) priority sectors, namely, agro-based products, air travel, automobiles, e-ASEAN, electronics, fisheries, healthcare, rubber-based products, textiles and apparels, tourism, wood-based products;

WHEREAS, Article 4 of the Framework Agreement provides that Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand shall eliminate by 1 January 2007 all Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) rates of products (other than those in the sensitive, highly sensitive and general exception lists) covered by the individual ASEAN Sectoral Integration Protocols, except those listed in accompanying negative lists to the Protocols;

WHEREAS, on 14 January 2007, the NEDA Board approved the reduction of CEPT rates to 0% on various products in compliance with the Philippine commitment under the Framework Agreement;

WHEREAS, Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, empowers the President upon the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority, to increase, reduce or remove existing protective rates of import duty, as well as to modify the form of duty;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The articles specifically listed in Annex “A” hereof (Articles Granted Zero (0%) AFTA-CEPT Concession under the ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors), as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be subject to the ASEAN CEPT rate indicated in Column 4 of Annex “A”. The ASEAN CEPT rates so indicated shall be accorded to imports coming from ASEAN Member States applying CEPT concession to the same products pursuant to Article 4 of the CEPT Agreement and its Interpretative Notes.

SEC. 2. From the date of effectivity of this Order, all articles listed in Annex “A” entered into or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption shall be imposed the rates of duty

therein prescribed subject to compliance with the Rules of Origin as provided for in the Agreement on the CEPT Scheme for the AFTA signed on 28 January 1992.

SEC. 3. All presidential issuances, administrative rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Done in the City of Manila, this 23rd day of **April**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACANANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 618

MODIFYING THE RATES OF DUTY ON CERTAIN IMPORTED ARTICLES AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMITMENT TO GRANT RECIPROCAL TARIFF RATE TREATMENT ON TARIFF LINES INCLUDED IN THE SENSITIVE TRACK OF THE ASEAN-CHINA FREE TRADE AREA

WHEREAS, the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation (Framework Agreement) between the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China (China) was signed by the Heads of Government/State of the ASEAN Member States and China on 4 November 2002 in Cambodia;

WHEREAS, Articles 2(a), 3(1), and 8(1) of the Framework Agreement reflect the Parties' commitment to establish the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) covering trade in goods by 2010 for ASEAN 6 and China, and by 2015 for the newer ASEAN Member States;

WHEREAS, the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement was signed by the Economic Ministers of the Parties on 29 November 2004 in Laos;

WHEREAS, Article 3(2)(b) of the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement provides that tariff lines placed in the Sensitive Track by each Party shall have their respective applied MFN tariff rates reduced or eliminated within timeframes in accordance with the modalities set out in Annex 2 of the Agreement.

WHEREAS, the aforesaid Annex 2 of the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement provides that the reciprocal tariff rate treatment of tariff lines placed by a Party in the Sensitive Track shall be governed by the following conditions: (a) the tariff rate for a tariff line placed by a Party in the Sensitive Track must be at 10% or below for the Party to enjoy reciprocity; (b) the reciprocal tariff rate to be applied to a tariff line placed by a Party in the Sensitive Track shall either be the tariff rate of that Party's tariff line, or the Normal track tariff rate of the same tariff line of the other Party or Parties from whom reciprocity is sought, whichever is higher; and (c) the reciprocal tariff rate to be applied to a tariff line placed by a Party in the Sensitive Track shall in no case exceed the applied MFN rate of the same tariff line of the Party or Parties from whom reciprocity is sought.

WHEREAS, Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978 (PD 1464), as amended, empowers the President of the Republic of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority, to increase, reduce or remove existing protective rates of import duty, as well as to modify the form of duty;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The products of the other Parties under their Sensitive Track in Annex "A" hereof, will be accorded reciprocal tariff treatment as governed by Paragraphs 5 and 6 of Annex 2 of the Agreement on Trade in Goods after a notification has been received from the Party/Parties that the

rates of duty of products in its Sensitive Track are at 10% and below. For confirmation of the products covered by this reciprocity rule, the Tariff Commission (TC), upon request shall request shall issue tariff classification rulings pursuant to Section 1313 (a) of the Tariff and Customs Code, as amended.

SEC. 2. From the date of effectivity of this Order, all articles listed in Annex “A” entered into or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption shall be imposed the rates of duty therein prescribed subject to compliance with the Rules of Origin as provided for in Article 5 of the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement.

SEC. 3. All presidential issuances, administrative rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Done in the City of Manila this 23rd day of April, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 619

CREATING AND DESIGNATING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7916, AS AMENDED BY RA 8784, IN RELATION TO RA 7227, AS AMENDED BY RA 9400, INSIDE THE CLARK FREEPORT ZONE

WHEREAS, the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) designed to promote and accelerate a balanced and sound economic and social development of the country especially in the rural areas, is one of the major projects of the present administration;

WHEREAS, last 20 March 2007, RA 9400 was signed into law which categorically grants tax incentives to Clark SEZ, Subic Special Economic and Freeport Zone, John Hay SEZ, Poro Point SEZ, and other SEZ to be created under RA 7227, as amended;

WHEREAS, Section 12 of RA 9400 repealed Section 50 of RA 7916, thereby recognizing that RA 7916, as amended, can now be made applicable to some SEZ created pursuant to RA 7227, as amended;

WHEREAS, the amendments in RA 9400 provides for the applicability of RA 7916, as amended, and the role of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) with respect to SEZ that may be created in Bataan, Zambales as well as in John Hay SEZ, but did not so provide for the applicability of RA 7916, as amended, in the Subic SEZ, Poro Point Freeport Zone, and the new Clark Freeport Zone;

WHEREAS, there is a need to make RA 7916, as amended, also applicable to the Clark Freeport Zone in areas to be specifically designated by the President by way of Proclamation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, hereby order:

Section 1. Duly registered business enterprises that will operate in special economic zones to be created by proclamation inside the Clark Freeport Zone shall be entitled to the same tax and duly incentives as provided for under R.A. 7916, as amended: Provided that for purpose of administering these incentives, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority shall register, regulate and supervise all registered enterprises within the said special economic zones.

Section 2. All laws, decrees, proclamations, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 3. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Done, in the City of Manila, this **26th** day of **April**, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 620

**RATIONALIZING AND SPEEDING UP THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EAST AND
NORTH TRIANGLES, AND THE VETERANS MEMORIAL AREA OF QUEZON CITY, AS
A WELL-PLANNED, INTEGRATED AND ENVIRONMENTALLY BALANCED MIXED-USE
DEVELOPMENT MODEL**

WHEREAS, the Metro Manila Development Authority's Physical Development Framework Plan for Metro Manila (1995 - 2010) designates the North and East Triangles as Urban Promotion Area, and the Quezon City Comprehensive Land Use Plan cites the North Triangle as an "Area of Growth/Influence";

WHEREAS, the properties within the area of 250 hectares tangent to North Avenue and bounded by Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue, East and North Avenues, have become disparately assigned for diverse uses that are not complementary, making the same vulnerable to urban blight and therefore do not reflect the best use of the land, given their present and projected market values as well as their strategic location;

WHEREAS, the collective properties therein have the biggest potential for large-scale development within the National Capital Region that can provide the significant stimulus needed by the government to help put the country at the forefront of global investment and business interest;

WHEREAS, the market prospects of the East and North Triangles are significant, thereby convincing international development and financing institutions like the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to fund, as in fact the WB is funding, the development of a framework plan as well as a master plan for the development of these Triangles into a highly integrated, transportation, environment, commercial and residential model;

WHEREAS, this urban development model can serve as a basic guide for the government to use in creating more areas of competitive advantage serving as hubs of intense economic growth in different areas nationwide;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Creation. There is hereby created the Urban Triangle Development Commission (Tri Dev Commission) to be composed of the following:

- a. A representative from the Office of the Mayor of Quezon City, as Chairman;
- b. The General Manager of the National Housing Authority, as member; and
- c. A representative from the Office of the President, as member.

Section 2. Purposes and Powers. The Tri Dev Commission shall pursue the following objectives, which shall in effect also constitute its powers:

- a. Review, integrate and streamline plans, programs, allocation schemes, land use and other property management arrangements affecting properties within the North and East Triangles of Quezon City, as mandated by earlier proclamations, other laws and contracting arrangements, using as main reference materials the World Bank Study on the “*Preparation of a Comprehensive Framework Plan for the Development of a Central Business District in Quezon City*” and the ensuing World Bank Master Plan for the Central Business District in Quezon City;
- b. Formulate, plan and program the development components, processes and strategies, as well as determine the land-use mix and resource applications necessary to achieve the development objectives for the area, as harmonized with the aforesaid World Bank Study;
- c. Manage, control and direct the implementation of the development program;
- d. Formulate deal structures with owners of properties in the 250-hectare development area, that will hasten the development of the envisioned mixed-use development model, without prejudice to their equity interest;
- e. Study the proper application of political and financial resources of both the National Government and the Local Government Unit in escalating implementation initiatives, as well as coordinate in the planning and execution of projects;
- f. Form a Technical Working Group who shall provide the Tri Dev Commission with the needed technical assistance in the preparation of plans and programs as well as in executing implementation strategies, therefore serving as the infrastructure of people needed to support all stages of the development program.

Section 3. Initial Funding. The Tri Dev Commission shall, for its initial costs of operations, have such funds as may be approved by the Office of the President upon recommendation of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Section 4. Repealing Clause. All other executive orders, proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 5. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 4th day of May, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). [*Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 620-A
EXPANDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE URBAN TRIANGLE DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION AND CLARIFYING ITS STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS, THEREBY
AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 620, SERIES OF 2007

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 620 dated May 4, 2007, created the Urban Triangle Development (TriDev) Commission and aims to rationalize and speed up the development of the East and North Triangles and the Veterans Memorial area of Quezon City, as a well-planned, integrated and environmentally balanced, mixed-use development model;

WHEREAS, there is a need to guide and improve the allocation, utilization, management and development of the national government's land resources, as well as to ensure their optimum use, under the principles of economic growth and efficiency, social equity and justice;

WHEREAS, the emerging and projected developments in the area necessitate a comprehensive plan for urban development, business development and marketing that integrates the highest and best use of the properties under a re-planned, mixed-use scheme;

WHEREAS, the composition of the Tri-Dev Commission can be strengthened by expanding its membership and clarifying its scope of responsibilities, to enable it to carry out its mandate more effectively.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Coverage. The following areas shall be covered by the proposed Quezon City Central Business District (QC-CBD):

- a. East and North Triangles;
- b. Veterans Memorial Medical Center Area;
- c. Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife.

SECTION 2. *Expanding the Composition of the Urban Triangle Development Commission.* The Urban Triangle Development (TriDev) Commission is hereby expanded to be composed of the following:

- a. Chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), and to sit as Chairman of the Tri-Dev Commission;
- b. A representative from the Office of the Mayor of Quezon City, as Co-Chairman;
- c. General Manager of the National Housing Authority, as member;
- d. A representative from the Office of the President as member.

SECTION 3. *Functions of the Tri-Dev Commission.* The Commission shall have the following powers and purposes.

- a. Oversee the preparation of the Master Development Plan for the 250 hectare area of the QC-CBD, for the purpose of transforming this into a well-planned, integrated and environmentally balanced, mixed-use development.

For this purpose, the TriDev Commission shall be tasked to:

- 1.) Formulate plans and programs mutually beneficial to all concerned, for the development components, processes, and strategies, as well as determine the best use of the properties covered by EO 620, in line with the development objectives of the proposed QC-CBD, subject to the proprietary rights of the respective owners.
- 2.) Review, evaluate and/or integrate already available urban development plans from the national government and the Quezon City local government, including the World Bank Study on the “*Preparation of a Comprehensive Framework Plan for the Development of a Central Business District in Quezon City.*”
- 3.) Form a Technical Working Group who shall provide the Tri-Dev Commission with the needed technical assistance in the preparation of the Master Development Plan, as well as in executing implementation strategies needed to support all stages of the QC-CBD project.

- b. Manage, control and direct the implementation of the Master Development Plan, including the following:

- 1.) Formulate deal structures and enter into agreements with owners of properties in the QC-CBD area, without prejudice to their proprietary rights, including between and among Commission members;
- 2.) Recommend the issuance of executive orders, proclamations and other issuances for the re-planning, re-classification or reversion of the properties for mixed-use development.
- 3.) Formulate a viable resettlement program for qualified informal settler families in the 250-hectare QC-CBD project area.
- 4.) Monitor and manage the implementation of the different QC-CBD sub-projects, in accordance with the approved Master Development Plan.
- 5.) Vest the Chairmen of the Commission with the responsibility and the power to ensure that all agreements for the implementation of the Master Development Plan conform to the overall developmental thrusts of the National Government.

SECTION 4. *Fund for Socialized Housing Program.* All revenues representing the share of the National Housing Authority as land owner of properties within the QC-CBD area, from the sale, lease, joint venture and other schemes, shall be used solely for Socialized Housing Programs. A separate Trust Fund shall be established for this purpose.

SECTION 5. *Support from other Agencies.* All departments, bureaus, offices, government agencies and instrumentalities of the national government are hereby mandated to provide the necessary support and expertise in facilitating the implementation of the Master Development Plan for the QC-CBD.

SECTION 6. *Initial Funding.* The Tri-Dev Commission shall, for its initial costs of operations, have such funds as may be approved by the Office of the President, upon the recommendation of the Department of Budget and Management.

SECTION 7. *Repeal.* All other executive orders, proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* This Executive Order shall take effect immediately, upon its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila, this 11th day of September, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). [*Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 621
PLACING THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE UNDER THE SUPERVISION
AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

WHEREAS, on 27 March 2006, the President issued Executive Order No. 520 placing the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) under the supervision and control of the Office of the President;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) is the principal government agency responsible for the formulation, planning, implementation, and coordination of policies and programs in the field of health;

WHEREAS, the PCSO is one of the government agencies tasked with raising and providing funds for health programs, medical assistance and services, and charities of national character;

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate coordination of policies and programs between these agencies, it is practical to place the PCSO under the supervision and control of the DOH;

WHEREAS, Book III, Title III, Chapter 10, Section 31(3) of the Administrative Code of the 1987 authorizes the President to “transfer any agency under the Office of the President to any other department or agency xxx.”

NOW, THEREFORE I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office shall hereby be placed under the supervision and control of the Department of Health.

SECTION 2. Executive Order No. 520, series of 2006, is hereby repealed. All other orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 8th day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 622

REPEALING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 460 DATED SEPTEMBER 2, 2005, ENTITLED
“AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 119 (S. 2002) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

WHEREAS, Section 60 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9136, otherwise known as the “Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA)” provided that all outstanding financial obligations of electric cooperatives (ECs) to the National Electrification Administration (NEA) and other government agencies incurred for the purpose of financing the rural electrification program (REP) shall be assumed by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) in accordance with the program approved by the President of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Rule 31, Section 6, of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of EPIRA provided that “nothing in this Rule however, shall mean that ECs are not obliged to pay the NEA with respect to all outstanding financial obligations assumed by PSALM, if the amortization cost component of the EC’s tariff is still collected from the consumers”;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 60 of EPIRA, Executive Order (E.O.) No. 119 was issued on August 28, 2002 which provided for the assumption by PSALM of all outstanding rural electrification (RE) loan obligations of ECs;

WHEREAS, E.O. No. 119 provides under Section 5 thereof that the assumption by PSALM of the RE loans shall be effective only upon compliance with the terms and conditions enumerated therein which include, among others, the approval by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) of the reduction in the EC rates commensurate with the resulting savings due to the removal of the amortization payments on the RE loans;

WHEREAS, on September 2, 2005, E.O. No. 460, amending E.O. No. 119, was issued mandating that the effective date of the assumption of the RE loans by PSALM shall retroact to the date of effectivity of EPIRA on June 26, 2001;

WHEREAS, the ERC issued on October 11, 2002, its “Guidelines for the Implementation of the Reduction in Rates of the EC due to the Condonation of Debt,” which was amended on November 15, 2002, which governs the applications of the ECs with the ERC for the approval of the reduction in rates in compliance with Section 60 of EPIRA and E.O. No. 119 with prayer for provisional authority (“PA”);

WHEREAS, the ERC has issued during the period from March 3, 2003 to January 2004, the corresponding PAs to reduce rates to each and every EC, or a total of one hundred eighteen (118) ECs, thereby making the date of issuance thereof as the effective date of the assumption by PSALM of the RE loans of the said ECs to NEA and other creditor government agencies;

WHEREAS, to strengthen the financial viability of the ECs, it is best to maintain that the assumption by PSALM of the RE loans shall be effective upon approval by the ERC of the reduction in the EC rates commensurate with the resulting savings due to the removal of the amortization payments on RE loans or upon the issuance by the ERC of the PAs to reduce rates to each and every EC;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Executive Order No. 460 dated September 2, 2005 is hereby repealed. The provisions of Executive Order No. 119 dated August 28, 2002 which were earlier amended by Executive Order No. 460 are thus hereby reinstated.

SECTION 2. All orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 9th day of May, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 623

AFFIRMING THE CONTINUING REGULATORY AND SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136 AND PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 269 (AS AMENDED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1645), OVER ALL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, REGISTERED OR NOT REGISTERED WITH THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OR THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9136, otherwise known as the “Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA)”, took effect on June 26, 2001;

WHEREAS, Section 57 of R.A. No. 9136 provides that:

“Sec. 57. Conversion of Electric Cooperatives. - Electric cooperatives are hereby given the option to convert into either stock cooperative under the Cooperatives Development Act (CDA) or stock corporation under the Corporation Code. x x x. “

WHEREAS, Rule 7, Section 7, Paragraph (c) (i) of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of EPIRA, provided that the conversion and registration of electric cooperatives (ECs) shall be implemented in the following manner:

“(i) ECs shall, upon approval of a simple majority of the required number of turnout of voters as provided in the Guidelines in the Conduct of Referendum (Guidelines), in a referendum conducted for such purpose, be converted into a Stock Cooperative or Stock Corporation and thereafter shall be governed by the Cooperative Code of the Philippines or the Corporation Code. The NEA, x x x, shall promulgate the guidelines in accordance with Section 5 of Presidential Decree No. 1645.”

WHEREAS, Rule 7, Section 7, Paragraph (c), (ii), IRR of EPIRA provided further that:

“(ii) ECs converted into Stock Corporations shall be registered with the SEC in accordance with the Corporation Code, while those converted into Stock Cooperatives, shall be registered with the CDA: *Provided, however*, That the ECs which opt to remain as Non-Stock Cooperatives shall continue to be registered with the NEA and shall be governed by the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 269.”

WHEREAS, the foregoing provisions of R.A. No. 9136 and its IRR superseded Articles 122 and 128 of R.A. No. 6938, otherwise known as the “Cooperative Code of the Philippines”, insofar as registration and conversion of ECs to stock cooperative under R.A. No. 6938 within three (3)

years from the effectivity of the Rules and Regulations promulgated by NEA and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) is concerned;

WHEREAS, Articles 122 and 128 of R.A. No. 6938 refer only to ECs that opted to register with CDA pursuant to R.A. No. 6938 and not to ECs that opted to register with CDA pursuant to Section 57 of R.A. No. 9136;

WHEREAS, consistent with R.A. No. 9136, NEA shall continue to exercise its authority under Section 3 and 5 of Presidential Decree (P.D.) No. 1645 over all ECs, registered or not registered with the CDA or the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC);

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The ECs are hereby given the option to convert to stock corporations and be registered under the Corporation Code, or to stock cooperatives and be registered under the Cooperative Code of the Philippines, following the National Electrification Administration (NEA) Guidelines.

SECTION 2. The NEA shall continue to exercise its regulatory and supervisory authority (institutional, financial, and technical) under Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9136; Presidential Decree (P.D.) No. 269, as amended by P.D. No. 1645, specifically Section 3 and 5 thereof, over all ECs, registered or not registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) or the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

SECTION 3. All orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 9th day of May, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 624

CREATING THE PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-SMUGGLING GROUP TO APPREHEND, SEIZE,
INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE ACTS INVOLVING SMUGGLING, UNLAWFUL
IMPORTATION AND OTHER SIMILAR VIOLATIONS, AND PROVIDING MEASURES TO
CURTAIL SMUGGLING AND EXPEDITE SEIZURE PROCEEDINGS

WHEREAS, smuggling, unlawful importation and other similar violations continue to undermine the national interest and security;

WHEREAS, the prevention of smuggling and other related fraudulent practices against existing laws is one of the urgent concerns of the administration, an essential requirement in fact, for the success of the government's economic reforms;

WHEREAS, the creation of a presidential body directly mandated and empowered to investigate and prosecute smuggling and other unlawful importation is necessary to effectively counteract this form of activities which are inimical to the economy;

WHEREAS, the Administrative Code of 1987 empowers the President with the continuing authority to reorganize the Office of the President and to transfer functions from one department or agency to another;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. *Creation of Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group.* – There is hereby created a Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group (PASG), under the control and supervision of the Office of the President, principally to curtail smuggling, unlawful importation and other similar acts.

Section 2. *Composition.* – The PASG shall be composed of elements from the Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), National Food Authority (NFA), Philippine Maritime Authority (MARINA), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Philippine Navy (PN), Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), and Bureau of Customs (BOC), as well as from other government agencies that may be needed by the PASG in the performance of its functions, as determined by the Head of PASG.

The PASG shall be headed by a Presidential Assistant for Anti-Smuggling (with the rank of Undersecretary) to be appointed by the President. He shall be assisted by an Assistant Secretary to be appointed by the President, upon recommendation of the Head of PASG.

Section 3. *Scope/Jurisdiction.* – The operation of the PASG in the performance of its functions is nationwide in scope.

Section 4. *Powers and Functions.* – The PASG shall have the following powers and functions:

1. To adopt appropriate measures in preventing smuggling and other similar acts in violation of existing laws;
2. To effect searches, seizures and arrests in conformity with the provisions of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, and other related laws;

3. To conduct intelligence and counter-intelligence activities on smuggling and other unlawful importation, to include but not limited to, the monitoring of situations, circumstances and/or activities of individual, groups and entities who are reasonably believed to be involved in smuggling activities;
4. To enlist the assistance of any department, bureau, office or agency or any instrumentality of the government, principally from the government agencies mentioned in Section 2 of this Executive Order, including government-owned or controlled corporations, to carry out its functions, including the use of their respective personnel, facilities and resources if necessary;
5. To select and recruit personnel from the government agencies mentioned in Section 2 of this Executive Order, for assignment to the PASG, with the conformity of the respective agencies concerned, which should not at any time be unreasonably denied;
6. To secure copies of documents pertaining to the nature and particulars of the commodity or goods subject of importation, i.e. quantity or volume, technical or qualitative specifications, port of destination/estimated date of arrival in the Philippines, among others, from government agencies concerned, including but not limited to the BOC and the Bureau of Import Services, and also from non-government sources like pre-shipment companies at the port of origin, and commercial banks in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations;
7. To conduct verification with the BOC of documents pertaining to payment of duties and taxes of imported commodities and goods;
8. To inspect warehouses where seized commodities are stored to ensure that such commodities are not being ferreted out or removed without proper documentation; and
9. To suppress and prevent all other economic frauds, as may be directed by the President.

Section 5. *Acts Covered.* – The PASG shall be authorized and empowered to exercise its functions in any or all acts involving the following:

- a) Smuggling, illegal importation and customs fraud or other similar acts committed by any individual, groups or any juridical person or entity; and
- b) Other cases of violations of the Tariff and Customs Code, as amended, and related laws, pertinent provisions of the Revised Penal Code, as amended, as well as violations of other pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

Section 6. *Organization/Support.* – The PASG shall organize the technical, administrative and special services staffs from among the personnel assigned or detailed to it pursuant to Section 2 hereof, and assign their respective functions.

Section 7. *Special Team of Prosecutors.* – To assist the PASG in the expeditious prosecution of criminal and other cases covered under this Executive Order, a Special Team of Prosecutors (Team) from the Department of Justice shall be assigned to and be under the supervision of the PASG. The Team shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To evaluate evidence gathered by the PASG and to determine whether or not violation of the Tariff and Customs Code, as amended, other related laws and regulations, and/or pertinent provisions of the Revised Penal Code, as amended, among others, has been committed;
2. To initiate and conduct preliminary investigations and to file and prosecute the appropriate administrative and criminal charges against person(s) responsible for smuggling and violation of customs laws or other related laws and regulations; and

3. The PASG is authorized to apply for the issuance of search warrant, warrant of seizure and detention in appropriate cases and institute the necessary criminal, administrative and/or civil action in relation thereto.

The Team will be selected and recruited in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 4 and 5, Section 4 of this Executive Order.

Section 8. *Entitlement and Privileges.* – In view of the sensitive nature of their functions as herein provided, the members of the Special Team of Prosecutors shall be entitled to transportation, accommodation and per diems when performing their functions outside of the PASG in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

They shall also be entitled to hazard pay/monthly allowance of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to be drawn from the budget of the PASG.

Section 9. *Funding.* – Subject to the periodic audit by the Commission on Audit, the PASG shall be provided with an initial annual allocation of Fifty Million Pesos (P50 Million) to be drawn from the President's Contingency Fund and/or from government's savings. Thereafter, appropriations for the succeeding years shall be incorporated in the annual budget of the Office of the President.

Section 10. *Reporting.* – The Head of PASG shall submit to the Office of the President periodic reports of its activities and performance for the information and guidance of the President.

Section 11. *Repealing Clause.* – Executive Order No. 509 dated March 15, 2006 is hereby repealed. All other orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 12. *Effectivity.* – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 21st day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). [*Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 625
AMENDING BIR EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 175 OF PRESIDENT JOSEPH
ESTRADA AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, for 2006, BIR was short of P20 billion, but just for the first two months of 2007 (January and February), the BIR already incurred P10.3 shortfall. The 2006 and 2007 deficit continued from the 2005 deficit of P11 billion;

WHEREAS, for April 2007 which is usually the highest payment of income tax, collection is already compromised with recorded input tax VAT refund of over P35 billion for April;

I, therefore, Gloria M. Arroyo, do hereby order:

Section 1. The Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) Program shall be institutionalized into a regular division in the BIR's Enforcement Service of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR);

Section 2. There is hereby created a Revenue Enforcement Committee to be headed by the Deputy Commissioner for Legal, Inspection and Enforcement Group;

Section 3. The Large Taxpayers is hereby placed under the Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Audit and Fraud Investigation. RDO Cesar Lim is hereby designated to head the Large Taxpayers Service, subject to the rules of the Commission on Elections.

Section 4. RATE and tax fraud cases shall be given priority in tax investigations in the Large Taxpayers' Service and the district offices;

Section 5. Each RDO is hereby required to file one RATE case per month;

Section 6. BIR Executive Order (EO) No. 175 of President Joseph Estrada is hereby amended by reverting it to the previous EO No. 430 which would effectively promote industry audit and benchmarking methods in the national and special investigations of the Bureau;

Section 7. The Inspection Group is hereby deputized to proceed administratively against BIR officials and employees with cases in the Revenue Integrity Protection Services (RIPS), alongside the criminal Ombudsman cases of the Department of Finance.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 4th day of April, in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 625-A

ADMINISTERING THE RUN AFTER TAX EVADERS (RATE) PROGRAM THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LEGAL AND INSPECTION GROUP OF THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE, REPEALING OTHER PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 625, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, there is a need to strengthen the prosecutorial and enforcement mechanism of the government's national internal revenue generation program;

WHEREAS, organizational streamlining is critical to the continuing success of the Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) Program of the Bureau of Internal Revenue;

WHEREAS, President has the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Executive Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. The Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) Program shall be placed under the administration of the Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Legal and Inspection Group of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Section 2. All other provisions of Executive Order No. 625 are hereby repealed.

Section 3. All other executive issuances or portions thereof inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 12th of June, in the year of the Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 626
STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNMENT'S INTERFAITH PROGRAM THROUGH THE
CREATION OF A NATIONAL COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution articulates a policy of peace, cooperation and amity with all nations as well as maintain peace and order in the country for the enjoyment by all of the blessings of democracy;

WHEREAS, the Government affirms the individual's right to freedom of religion and worship as well as the free exercise thereof as enunciated in the 1987 Constitution, and that the country's participation in interfaith and its related activities does not, in any way, favor or discriminate against any particular religion;

WHEREAS, the Republic of the Philippines is currently at the forefront of interfaith dialogue in the world community, elevating the latter as a legitimate tool for peace and understanding in the United Nations through the successful lobbying and passing of UN Resolution A/RES/59/23 (Promotion of Interreligious Dialogue);

WHEREAS, there is a need to consolidate, rationalize, and ensure consistency of the country's policies and position in the various interfaith initiatives and fora in and outside the country;

WHEREAS, interfaith initiatives are crucial in the promotion of peace and harmony, cultural tolerance, ethical standards and human rights, as well as the development of moral, spiritual and intellectual capacities for the upholding and enhancement of human dignity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPGAL ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the following:

Section 1. *Creation of the National Committee on Interfaith Cooperation.* There is hereby created the National Committee on Interfaith Cooperation, which shall perform the following functions:

1. Formulate, consolidate, rationalize and recommend Philippine policies and position on various interfaith initiatives in and outside of the country;
2. Articulate and ensure the consistency of the Philippine policy and position in the different local and international fora, as well as in all related activities on interfaith dialogue;
3. Ensure that the Philippines is well represented and maintain its continued leadership and effective participation in the various interfaith initiatives and activities in the international arena/fora;
4. Establish, strengthen and sustain linkages and partnerships with various faith-based and interfaith organizations throughout the country. In this regard, regular consultations shall be conducted with civil society groups and religious sectors;
5. Facilitate the development, implementation and monitoring of the Philippine Plan of Action on Interfaith Cooperation; and,
6. Exercise such other functions as may be assigned by the President.

Section 2. *Composition.* The Committee shall be composed of designated officials from the following departments or agencies:

Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)	- Chair
Office of the Presidential Adviser on The Peace Process	- Co-Chair
Presidential Council on Values Formation	- Secretariat

Section 3. *Support Structure.* Other Government offices/agencies may be tapped as necessary to assist the Committee in the preparation of the country's participation in interfaith initiatives, as well as in the formulation of the Philippine positions and recommendations.

Section 4. *Creation of Interfaith Desks and Focal Points.* All departments, bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities of national government, including government owned or controlled corporations and government financial institutions are hereby enjoined to establish interfaith desks and designate focal points who shall:

1. Undergo orientation and training on interfaith cooperation;
2. Take charge of interfaith-related programs and projects in their respective offices;
3. Coordinate with and support the Committee in all its undertaking as necessary;
4. Facilitate the establishment of interfaith prayer centers in their respective offices.

Section 5. *Funding.* The Department of Budget and Management is hereby directed to release an initial amount of Five Million Pesos (PhP5,000,000.00) from the President's Contingent Fund to initially cover the expenses of the Committee. Fund requirements of the Committee for the succeeding years shall be included in the OPAPP Budget.

Section 6. *Repealing Clause.* All issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 7. *Effectivity.* This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 4th day of June, in the year of our, Lord Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 627

MODIFYING THE NOMENCLATURE AND MOST-FAVORED NATION (MFN) RATES OF DUTY ON VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE PHILIPPINE COMMITMENT ON RICE UNDER THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Agriculture embodies the rules and commitments of WTO members in improving market access and promoting fairer competition in agriculture;

WHEREAS, Annex 5 of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, otherwise known as the “special treatment” provision, provides for restriction on imports of primary sensitive agricultural products subject to strictly defined conditions;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government applied for a seven (7) year extension of the Special Treatment on rice under Annex 5 of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Agriculture until 2012;

WHEREAS, Paragraph 9, Section B, Annex 5 of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture mandates the Philippine government to compensate other WTO member countries by reducing the Most Favored Nation (MFN) rates of duty on certain agriculture products for the requested seven (7) year extension of the special treatment on rice;

WHEREAS, the modification and rectifications of Schedule LXXV of the Philippines took effect on 27 December 2006;

WHEREAS, Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, empowers the President to modify import duties for the promotion of foreign trade.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The articles specifically listed in “Annex A” hereof, as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be subject to the rates of import duty in accordance with the schedule indicated opposite each article.

SECTION 2. The Nomenclature and the rates of import duty on tariff headings not enumerated and those listed but represented by the symbol “X X X” shall remain in force and in effect.

SECTION 3. Upon the effectivity of this Executive Order, the articles specifically listed in the aforesaid Annex “A” which are entered or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption shall be levied the rates of duty herein prescribed.

SECTION 4. All other Presidential issuances, administrative rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Done in the City of Manila, this **15th** day of **June**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Reference: Annex “A”

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 628
CREATING A COMMITTEE ON HARMONIZATION OF VEHICLE STANDARDS AND
REGULATIONS (CHVSR)

WHEREAS, efficient and reliable transportation services constitute a vital supportive system to national development;

WHEREAS, the harmonization of standards and regulations pertaining to motor vehicles and its related components and equipment will enhance road safety, decrease pollution, promote energy conservation and efficiency and redound to the general welfare of the public;

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the State to safeguard its citizenry, particularly passengers, drivers and pedestrians from injuries and damages caused by vehicular accidents;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 4136 or the “Land Transportation and Traffic Code” provides, among others, rules and regulations that prohibit the registration of vehicles that are unfit, unsightly, unsafe or not conforming to the prescribed minimum standards and specifications;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 4109 or the “Philippine Standardization Law” mandates the review, revision and publication of the standards every two (2) years or as the need arises to ensure substantial improvement in air quality for the health, safety and welfare of the general public;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8749 or the “Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999” likewise provides for harmonization of national emission standards with the international standards;

WHEREAS, WP 29 was established on 6 June 1952 as a Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE) and serves as the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations since March 2000 by initiating and pursuing actions aimed at the worldwide harmonization and development of technical standards and regulations for vehicles;

WHEREAS, there are three (3) Agreements under WP 29 which are in pursuance to its objectives by establishing uniform and simplified standards, procedures and regulations for reciprocal acceptance and recognition by the world community;

WHEREAS, there is a need for an inter-agency body at the national level that shall coordinate and integrate efforts and initiatives concerning harmonization of vehicle standards and regulations in the country, and prepare the country’s eventual participation to the WP 29 and “accession” to its Agreements;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Creation of the Committee on Harmonization of Vehicle Standards and Regulations.* – There is hereby created the Committee on Harmonization of Vehicle Standards and Regulations (CHVSR), hereinafter referred to as the Committee, which shall be primarily responsible for the effective coordination of efforts by various agencies of the government, international

organizations and the private sector pertaining to the harmonization of vehicle standards and regulations, including all activities related thereto.

SECTION 2. *Composition of CHVSR.* – The CHVSR shall be composed of the following:

- a. Chairman - Secretary, Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC)
- b. Vice Chairman - Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
- c. Members - Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
Secretary, Department of Energy (DOE);
Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
Representative from the Academe; and
Representatives from the Private Sector (automotive industry, transport and motorists).

The CHVSR may form Task Forces, Technical Working Groups or Sub-Committees tasked to perform specific duties and assignments which shall be composed of representatives from government agencies concerned and private sector or non-governmental organizations.

SECTION 3. *Secretariat.* – A Secretariat is hereby created to assist the Committee, to be composed of representatives from the DTI Bureau of Product Standards and the Department of Transportation and Communications/Land Transportation Office (DOTC/LTO).

SECTION 4. *Functions of the CHVSR.* – The CHVSR shall initiate and pursue the formulation of reasonable and workable plans and programs aimed at preparing the country’s eventual participation to the WP 29 and accession to its “Agreements.”

Specifically, the Committee shall perform the following functions:

1. Review the conformity of existing Philippine National Standards and other relevant laws and regulations with current international rules and procedures as well as technical regulations;
2. Identify, classify and prioritize implementation of vehicle and vehicle parts’ standards;
3. Identify safety regulations for possible harmonization based on UN-ECE regulations;
4. Identify and establish the institutional and technical infrastructure requirement to enhance participation to WP 29;
5. Consult and coordinate with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and other bodies concerned concerning the country’s accession to relevant UN Agreements and Conventions;
6. Submit an annual report of its activities and accomplishments to the President; and
7. Perform such other duties and functions which may be necessary in the attainment of the objectives of WP 29, and such other acts as may be necessary and proper to implement this Executive Order.

SECTION 5. *Funding.* – The funds to support the operations and activities of the Committee shall be sourced from the special road safety and special vehicle pollution control funds administered by the Road Board created under Republic Act No. 8794 or the “Motor Vehicle User’s Charge Law” and such other funding sources as may be recommended by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All executive issuances, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* – This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **20th** day of **June**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). [*Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 629

DIRECTING THE PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY TO CONVERT THE SANGLEY POINT, CAVITE CITY INTO AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS HUB WITH MODERN SEAPORT AND AIRPORT THRU AN ENABLING RECLAMATION COMPONENT

WHEREAS, the Province of Cavite has been playing a major role in the economic development of inputs of the economic zones and industrial estates;

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide infrastructures for more efficient and cheaper transportation of inputs and outputs of the industrial goods to make them globally competitive;

WHEREAS, one of the major infrastructure projects that is necessary is the provision of an international container port complex that would include an airport and seaport in Sangley Point, Cavite City which would maximize the economic utility of the R-I Expressway Extension now undergoing construction;

WHEREAS, the viability of the Project to a large extent will be enhanced by the enabling reclamation in the portions of Bacoar and Cañacao Bays to provide a significant expansion district to the limited land area of Cavite City;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Reclamation Authority is the government agency vested with the power to approve reclamation projects under Executive Order No. 543 dated 24 June 2006 and undertake infrastructure and facilities in the reclamation area by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 1084, as amended;

WHEREAS, the planning, implementation and operation of the Project shall demand the multi-disciplinary expertise and experience that shall be tapped from various government agencies and the private sector;

WHEREAS, the City and Provincial Governments of Cavite in the past were supportive of this Project to enhance the development of Cavite City and provide employment to the residents of the Province of Cavite;

WHEREAS, the government encourages private sector initiatives in the implementation of its project.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the following:

SECTION 1. There is hereby Created the Executive Committee for the Development of Sangley Point into an International Logistic Hub to oversee the planning and implementation of the Project, composed of the following:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Chairman | – Philippine Reclamation Authority |
| Co-Chairman | – Representative of the Office of the Mayor of Cavite City |
| Members | – Department of Transportation and Communications
Department of National Defense |

National Economic and Development Authority
Department of Trade and Industry
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Department of Public Works and Highways
Philippine Economic Zone Authority

SEC. 2. The Philippine Reclamation Authority is hereby directed to develop the Sangley Point into an International Logistics Hub with Container Port and Airport Complex and an Economic Processing Zone with Cyber or Technoparks through a private sector joint venture or Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) scheme.

SEC. 3. An Inter-Agency Technical Committee composed of technical representatives of the Executive Committee shall assist the Philippine Reclamation Authority in the evaluation of joint venture/BOT project proposals, monitoring of the actual development/implementation of the Project, assist in the resolution of all issues and problems arising in the project to ensure all aspects of development from relocation of informal settlers/livelihood program, waste management, environmental aspects, reclamation and port development, drainage facilities are in conformance with existing laws and engineering standards.

SEC. 4. *Responsibilities.* Subject to existing and pertinent laws, rules and regulations, the agencies shall be given specific responsibilities in line with their respective expertise, powers and functions which shall include but not limited to the following:

- a. Evaluation of project proponents who will be invited to submit joint venture/BOT proposals which would include the preparation of the feasibility studies, engineering design, land use plan, environmental studies, soil investigation, tidal studies, hydrographic plans and other ancillary tasks, as well as financing and undertaking of the project;
- b. Conduct of selection/bidding process, evaluation of legal, financial, technical and environmental aspects of the submitted proposals and shall recommend to the President of the Philippines the most advantageous bid/offer;
- c. Conduct regular consultation meetings with the local residents to apprise them of the plan;
- d. Facilitating the titling of the reclaimed lands;
- e. Evaluating the environmental impact study of the proponent for the issuance of the Environmental Clearance Certificate; and
- f. Other functions/responsibilities as may be pertinent or necessary to achieve the objectives of this E.O.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this **21st** day of **June**, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 630

TRANSFERRING THE COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 603 (1974) created the *Council for the Welfare of Children* (CWC) under the Office of the President with the primary function of coordinating and monitoring the implementation and enforcement of all laws relative to the promotion of child and youth welfare;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 233 (1987) redefined the role, structure and membership of the Council in order to enable it to more effectively carry out its responsibilities in ensuring the cooperation of the government agencies concerned with child and youth welfare and development and it was made as an attached agency of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);

WHEREAS, by virtue of Republic Act No. 8980 (2000), the Council shall also function as the *National Early Childhood Care and Development Coordinating Council* (NECCDCC) which was organized to ensure that sustained inter-agency and multi-sectoral collaboration from the national, provincial, city/municipal to barangay levels to institutionalize a national system for Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and the Council/NECCDCC shall be under the Office of the President;

WHEREAS, under RA 8980, the CWC Secretariat, which also serves as the Secretariat of the NECCDCC, shall be headed by an Executive Director, and assisted by two (2) Deputy Executive Directors, one of whom shall be exclusively concerned with ECCD Concerns and the other exclusively concerned with the existing functions of the CWC;

WHEREAS, by virtue of Executive Order No. 349, (2004) clear lines of authority over CWC and NECCDCC Secretariat were established and the Secretaries of Department of Social Welfare and Development and Department of Education were directed to exercise primary oversight functions over the Deputy Executive Director for CWC Concerns and the Deputy Executive Director for ECCD Concerns, respectively;

WHEREAS, there is a necessity to designate a focal agency that will oversee the operations of the CWC Secretariat and harmonize the effective and efficient operationalization of its mandates, specifically in monitoring the implementation and enforcement of all laws for children (per PD 603, as amended) and in promulgating policies and guidelines for ECCD programs (per RA 8980);

WHEREAS, by virtue of EO 221 (2003), the DSWD is mandated to provide assistance to local government units, non-government organizations, other national government agencies, people's organizations, and other members of civil society in effectively implementing programs, projects and services that will alleviate poverty and empower disadvantaged individuals, families and communities, to include the children's sector, for an improved quality of life;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 292 (1987), otherwise known as the "Administrative Code of 1987", grants the President continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Executive Branch;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Council for the Welfare of Children is hereby placed as an attached agency of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

SECTION 2. The Council for the Welfare of Children shall have the following functions:

- (a) Coordinate the implementation of all laws relative to the promotion of child and youth welfare and protection of their rights;
- (b) Formulate an integrated national policy and long-range programs, monitor the enforcement of the laws on children, and ensure that all implementing member agencies carry out its provisions;
- (c) Advocate and recommend to the President and other appropriate agencies for implementation on a nationwide scale when appropriate, new, innovative, pilot programs and services for the general welfare of children and youth;
- (d) Mobilize resource assistance and call upon and utilize any department, bureau, office, agency, or instrumentalities, public, private, or voluntary, for such assistance as it may require in the performance of its functions;
- (e) Submit annually to the President, through the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, a comprehensive report on its activities and accomplishments; and
- (f) Perform such other functions as provided by law.

SECTION 3. The Council shall ensure the effective implementation of Presidential Decree 603 as amended and Republic Act 8980 and shall coordinate among government agencies such as, but not limited to the following agencies: National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), National Youth Commission (NYC) and the National Nutrition Council (NNC).

SECTION 4. The CWC shall also function as the National Early Childhood Care and Development Coordinating Council (NECCDCC), whereby in addition to the composition of the CWC, two (2) ECCD experts shall be appointed by the Chairperson.

SECTION 5. The Council Secretariat, shall be headed by an Executive Director with a rank of Career Executive Service Officer I (CESO I), and will serve as the Secretariat of both the Council and the NECCDCC.

SECTION 6. All orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **28th** day of **June**, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 631

AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 339, WHICH MANDATED THE RATIONALIZATION OF THE OPERATIONS AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION (SRA), BY DECLARING THAT THE SRA IS A GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATION

WHEREAS, Republic Act (RA) No. 632 dated June 6, 1951 created the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) as a government agency that needs to pursue institutional reforms to address inconsistencies and redundancies in its present setup considering the current situation of the sugar industry and the sustainability of its operations;

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 339 dated July 29, 2004 mandated the rationalization of the operations and organization of the SRA and treated SRA as neither a government-owned and controlled corporation nor a subsidiary, but an administrative agency pursuant to the ruling of the Supreme Court in the case of Republic of the Philippines vs. Court of Appeals dated August 5, 1991;

WHEREAS, EO No. 339 (2004), in Section 2, Paragraph 1, provides a guideline that in the implementation of its rationalization, the SRA shall operate and adopt the organizational structure of a regular agency of the national Government, consistent with existing jurisprudence that the SRA is neither a government-owned or controlled corporation (GOCC) nor a subsidiary but an administrative body;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of EO No. 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, defines a GOCC as “*any agency organized as stock or non-stock corporation, vested with functions relating to public needs whether government or proprietary in nature, and owned by the Government directly or through its instrumentalities either wholly, or, where application as in the case of stock corporations, to the extent of at least fifty-one (51) percent of its capital stock: Provided, That government owned or controlled corporations may be further categorized by the Department of Budget, the Civil Service Commission and the Commission on Audit for purposes of the exercise and discharge of their respective powers, functions and responsibilities with respect to such corporations.*”

WHEREAS, the SRA falls within the definition of a GOCC under the Administrative Code of 1987 since (1) its powers and functions as provided in EO No. 18 (1986) relate to public needs, (2) it is endowed with corporate personality and vested with corporate powers, and (3) its predecessors, namely, the Philippine Sugar Institute and the Philippine Sugar Commission, created under RA No. 632, and Presidential Decree No. 388, respectively, were likewise endowed with corporate personality and vested with corporate powers;

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice (DOJ), in its Opinion No. 80 (2006), stated that the Charter of the SRA (EO No. 18, 1986) is a special law and recognized the existing jurisprudence holding that the SRA is a GOCC;

WHEREAS, the SRA is a GOCC when the “Charter Test” is applied: (1) it is created by a special law (E.O. No. 18); (2) it acquires juridical personality based exclusively on said law; and (3) it is endowed by its charter with a corporate form of governance;

WHEREAS, the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (February 28, 2006), in its Declaration of Policy, specifically paragraph 2 of Rule 2, defines GOCC as “*a corporation organized as a stock or non-stock corporation vested with functions relating to public needs, whether governmental or proprietary in nature, and owned by the National Government directly or through its instrumentalities either wholly or, where applicable as in the case of stock corporations, to the extent of at least fifty-one percent (51 %) of its capital stock. This term shall also include subsidiaries, offsprings, acquired asset corporations, and other government entities of which the OGCC is the principal law office;*”

WHEREAS, consistent with the powers, features and the provisions of the charter of the SRA, the rationalization effort for the SRA must be consistent with its character as a GOCC;

WHEREAS, it is necessary and desirable to amend EO No. 339 to reflect SRA’s true nature and status as a GOCC in its rationalization.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Section 2 paragraph 1 of E.O No. 339 dated July 2004, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“1. The SRA shall operate and adopt the organizational structure of a government-owned and controlled corporation consistent with the prevailing jurisprudence; and”

Section 2. Repealing Clause. All other executive orders, proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations or parts therefor which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 3. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **9th** day of **July**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By authority of the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 632
AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 273 (SERIES OF 2000) AND MANDATING A
PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT TO ASSESS, PLAN AND MONITOR
THE ENTIRE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Presidential Commission on Educational Reform, or PCER, was created in 1998 to continue and build on the work of the 1991 Congressional Commission on Education to further strengthen the role of education in accelerating national development and global competitiveness;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. (EO) 273 (Series of 2000) created a National Coordinating Council for Education (NCCE) with the following specific mandates:

- To serve as the regular forum for trans-subsectoral consultations on cross-cutting policies and programs;
- To harmonize goals and objectives for the entire education system and to dovetail them to national development plans;
- To review existing and proposed programs and projects for tighter inter-subsector coordination;
- To set priorities for the education system and recommend corresponding financial requirements;
- To pursue and monitor implementation of the reforms proposed by the PCER;
- To establish, oversee and monitor the implementation of the National Educational Evaluation and Testing System and its operations;
- To designate and provide guidelines for Philippine representatives in international and national conferences/meetings with cross-cutting themes or concerns in education; and
- To convene a biennial National Congress on Education for the purpose of assessing, updating/upgrading and strengthening of the educational system and its components;

WHEREAS, in EO 273, the chair rotates every two years among the heads of the Department of Education (Dep Ed), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);

WHEREAS, CHED and DepEd vehemently opposed the TESDA Chairmanship;

WHEREAS, EO 273 was shelved;

WHEREAS, the need to synchronize and harmonize the government's educational policies, programs and initiatives becomes all the more urgent given our country's ranking in world competitiveness;

NOW, THEREFORE I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, do hereby amend EO 273 (Series of 2000) by abolishing the NCCE and mandating a Presidential Assistant to exercise its functions.

All executive issuances inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 10th day of July, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 633
PROVIDING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF DETAINED CHILDREN IN CONFLICT
WITH THE LAW (CICL) AS DECLARED UNDER R.A. 9344, ENTITLED
“JUVENILE JUSTICE AND WELFARE ACT OF 2006”

WHEREAS, the State recognizes the vital role of children and youth in nation building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being;

WHEREAS, the Philippines, pursuant to its treaty obligation under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, enacted Republic Act No. 9344 Establishing a Comprehensive Juvenile Justice and Welfare System which requires the application of restorative justice to children in all its laws, policies and programs;

WHEREAS, the inventory of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council shows that there are still children in detention despite the passage of the law in 2006;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Book III, Title 1, Section 1 of the Administrative Code, the President shall have control of the executive departments, bureaus and offices and shall ensure that the laws be faithfully executed;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL – ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law and pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 9344 do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Coverage. Children who are fifteen years of age and below at the time of the commission of the crime, who are still detained in prison facilities of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and the Bureau of Corrections.

SECTION 2. Petition for Release of the Child. For children who are detained by reason of final judgment rendered by a court of competent jurisdiction, the Department of Justice, through the Public Attorney’s Office is hereby directed to file immediately the necessary Petition to the court for the release of the child.

For children in detention pending trial, the Department of Justice, through the Public Attorney’s Office shall likewise immediately file the necessary Petition before the court to secure the release of the child.

If the child is assisted by *counsel de parte*, the Department of Justice, through the Public Attorney’s Office shall coordinate with the child’s counsel to ensure the release of the child.

SECTION 3. Release of the Child. Upon the issuance of the Court Order granting the release of the child, the head/warden of the detention facility shall release the child within forty eight (48) hours to the latter’s parents in the presence of the Local Social Welfare Development Officer (LSWDO). The LSWDO shall prepare and implement the necessary after-care services for the child.

SECTION 4. Monitoring. The Department of Justice, through the Public Attorney’s Office shall prepare a quarterly report of its compliance to this Order to the Office of the Executive Secretary with copy of the report furnished to the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. All other executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. Any provision hereof that may be declared in violation of existing laws shall in no way nullify the other provisions of this Executive Order.

SECTION 7. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 16th day of July, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 634
CREATING THE BICOL CALAMITY ASSISTANCE AND REHABILITATION EFFORT COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, funding for the River Basin and Watershed Management Project, a project funded by the National Government with a World Bank loan, is now available;

WHEREAS, the project has two major components, namely: 1) Bicol River Basin Management Component; and 2) Water Resources Management Component;

WHEREAS, the Bicol River Basin Management Component which will pilot the integrated water resources management approach on the ground is further subdivided into four subcomponents. These are: 1) Institutional Strengthening, 2) Watershed Development and Management to be led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and co-implemented by the Local Government Units (LGUs) within the Bicol River basin; 3) Irrigation Management to be implemented by the National Irrigation Administration; and 4) Flood Mitigation to be implemented by the Department of Public Works and Highways;

WHEREAS, the total project cost is estimated at \$30 Million, around \$22 Million of which is expected to be borrowed from the World Bank;

WHEREAS, the Bicol Region has been adversely affected by a series of massive typhoons particularly Caloy, Milenyo, Reming and Seniang;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9401 or the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for 2007 sets the parameters as to the allocation for the Calamity Assistance and Rehabilitation Effort (CARE) of Eight Billion Pesos (P8,000,000,000.00) under the Calamity Fund and Two Billion Pesos (P2,000,000,000.00) under the Department of Education (DepEd), the implementing/recipient departments and agencies and use of the fund;

WHEREAS, to date, the Department of Budget and Management has released some P5.2 Billion under the Calamity Fund and the P2.0 Billion under the DepEd for school buildings in typhoon stricken areas or a total of P7.2 Billion to various implementing departments and agencies specified in the GAA, as follows:

Department of Agriculture (DA)	P1.0 Billion
Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)	P0.500 Billion
Department of Energy/National Electrification Administration (DOE/NEA)	P0.500 Billion
Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)	P0.500 Billion
Department of Education (DepEd)	P2.0 Billion
National Housing Authority (NHA)	P0.500 Billion
Department of Health (DOH)	P0.300 Billion
Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)	P1.425 Billion
State Universities and Colleges (SUCs)	P0.400 Billion
Local Government Units (LGUs)	P0.126 Billion

WHEREAS, prior to the release of funds, work program of the individual implementing agencies were submitted to the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), an inter-agency body with the Office of Civil Defense as the technical Secretariat. The said Council serves as the clearing house for all claims/request and upon consolidation/evaluation, the requests are endorsed and recommended to the Office of the President (OP) for approval. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is notified of the OP approval as basis for the release of the fund.

WHEREAS, the NDCC normally handles calamity funds of about Two Billion Pesos (P2,000,000,000) to coordinate calamity response all over the country;

WHEREAS, the Ten Billion (P10,000,000,000.00) allocated for CARE is many times bigger than what the NDCC normally handles;

WHEREAS, a wholistic approach is needed in the implementation of government rehabilitation, repair and reconstruction works and activities in order to immediately mitigate the devastation caused by the aforementioned typhoons;

WHEREAS, some components of the Bicol River Basin and Watershed Management may interface or overlap with CARE;

WHEREAS, there is a need to establish relationships to synchronize the operations of existing government structures in order to strengthen synergy and efficiency;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, do hereby order:

Section 1. Creation. - The Bicol CARE Commission (B CARE C) is hereby created.

Section 2. Mandate. - The B CARE C shall integrate relief, rehabilitation, resettlement, recovery, livelihood and development efforts in the different areas of the Bicol Region particularly affected by typhoons Caloy, Milenyo, and Reming. It shall likewise ensure that public funds allocated for victims of said disasters shall be spent judiciously and effectively through efficient prioritization of programs and consistent monitoring of projects. It shall replace NDCC as the clearing house for all claims/requests. Upon consolidation/evaluation, it shall approve the appropriate requests. It shall notify the DBM of its approval as a basis for the release of the fund.

Section 3. Powers. - The B CARE C shall have the following powers:

- a. To generate proposals from the implementing agencies for relief, rehabilitation, resettlement, recovery, livelihood and development efforts as well as infrastructure support;
- b. To work with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on hazard mapping for the Bicol Region;
- c. To work with the Bicol River Basin and Watershed Management Project Management Office on common or overlapping project activities;
- d. To regularly monitor the status of programs, projects and activities in the areas devastated by typhoons Caloy, Milenyo, Reming and Senyang in the Bicol Region to ensure their prompt and efficient execution;
- e. To recommend courses of action to ensure cohesiveness in objectives and coordinated action to improve the implementation of rehabilitation, repair and reconstruction works and activities in the said areas;
- f. To coordinate and consult with concerned national and local officials, both elective and appointive, as well as accredited non-government organizations in the prosecution of programs and projects;

- g. To mobilize the assistance and support of any government agency or instrumentality as well as civil society and donor community to address identified gaps and requirements in rehabilitation efforts; and
- h. To formulate policies, plans and programs for relief, rehabilitation, resettlement, recovery, livelihood and development efforts as well as infrastructure support with regard to CARE funds unallocated to date or funds for a similar purpose that may be allocated in the future.

Section 4. Composition. - The B CARE C shall be composed of the following:

- a. The Chairman of the NDCC, as Chairman of the B CARE C
- b. The Secretary of Agriculture
- c. The Secretary of Agrarian Reform
- d. The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development
- e. The Secretary of Budget and Management
- f. The Secretary of Education
- g. The Secretary of Health
- h. The Secretary of Public Works and Highways
- i. The Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education
- j. The Administrator of NEA
- k. The General Manager of NHA
- l. The Chairman of the Region V Development Council

Section 5. Organization of the Secretariat. - The B CARE C shall maintain a Secretariat to be headed by the Executive Director. It may request that personnel from different government agencies and instrumentalities be detailed by their respective heads.

Section 6. Assistance of Government Entities. – All departments, agencies, bureaus, offices and instrumentalities are hereby enjoined to extend full assistance and cooperation, and to provide necessary information and data to B CARE C.

Section 7. Secretariat. - The B CARE C shall be supported by the secretariat to be headed by an Executive Director. Technical and administrative personnel shall be provided by member agencies on detail basis. The Executive Director shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Administer and manage the day-to-day affairs and operations of the B CARE C;
- b. Coordinate the activities of agencies and instrumentalities in the implementation of projects;
- c. Coordinate and liaise with accredited non-government organizations, international relief agencies and other groups or individuals involved in relief, resettlement, rehabilitation and livelihood services;
- d. Conduct studies on disaster mitigation and other related alternative measures to minimize the adverse effects to lives, properties and livelihood of residents in the Bicol Region that may be caused by similar disasters;
- e. Work with the DENR on Hazard mapping for the Bicol Region;
- f. Monitor the implementation of projects and programs in connection with the relief, rehabilitation, resettlement, recovery, livelihood and development efforts;
- g. Report to the B CARE C, which shall meet at least monthly, on the status, situation and developments concerning projects and programs; and
- h. Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the President.

Section 8. Reportorial Requirements. – The B CARE C shall submit to the appropriate Congressional oversight committee a quarterly report on the funds allocated indicating the amount released, obligated and disbursed for:

- a. Aid, relief, resettlement, rehabilitation and livelihood services; and
- b. Construction or repair and reconstruction of infrastructure projects being financed, and the accomplishments for the expended appropriations.

Section 9. Term. – The B CARE C shall exercise its powers and functions for a period of two (2) years unless otherwise directed by the President.

Section 10. Funding. - The funding for the administrative and operational expenses of the B CARE C shall be sourced from the Calamity Fund.

Section 11. Repealing Clause. - All other executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 12. Effectivity. – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 3rd day of July, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 635

AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 592 DATED DECEMBER 15, 2006 ENTITLED
“IMPOSING THE MANDATORY PAYMENT OF CONTAINER SECURITY FEE IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NON-INTRUSIVE CONTAINER INSPECTION SYSTEM (NCIS)
PROJECT OF THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND CREATING A TRUST FUND FOR THE USE
THEREOF” BY REDUCING CONTAINER SECURITY FEE RATES

WHEREAS, smuggling and other acts contrary to customs laws by under declaration or misdeclaration of imported goods or shipment of illegal items, drugs or hazardous substances continue to pose a direct and serious threat to the national economy and national security;

WHEREAS, there is a continued need to use container x-ray machines in various ports in the Philippines to expeditiously determine whether the declarations in the bills of lading of importers and exporters are true and correct and that no illegal items, drugs or harmful substances are within the said containers;

WHEREAS, there is a need to reduce the container security fees, as previously mandated in Executive Order No. 592, dated December 15, 2006, to lessen the financial burden on importers and exporters of goods;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 592, dated December 15, 2006 mandates that the collection of a container security fee amounting to FIFTY US DOLLARS (US\$50) for a 40-footer container and TWENTY-FIVE US DOLLARS (US\$25) for a 20-footer container;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Amending Section 2 of Executive Order NO. 592. Section 2 of Executive Order No. 592, dated December 15, 2006, shall now read as follows:

“Section 2. Container Security Fee. All shipments covered by this Executive Order shall be imposed the mandatory container security fee (CSF) in Philippine currency equivalent to US\$10 for every 40-footer container and US\$5 for every 20-footer container or twenty equivalent units (TEUs).”

SECTION 2. Amending Section 3 of Executive Order NO. 592. Section 3 of Executive Order No. 592, dated December 15, 2006, shall now read as follows:

“Section 3. Utilization of Container Security Fee. The Container Security Fee shall be expended and utilized by the Bureau of Customs as an administrative support system for the sustainability of the NCIS Project including but not limited to:

- a. Maintenance and improvement of the operation of the NCIS, including the upgrading thereof;
- b. Institutionalization of post audit procedures and processes;
- c. Fraud and fraud-related investigations and prosecutions;

- d. Training and related programs to enhance the capability and competence of personnel tasked to operate and maintain the system;
- e. Other activities and programs to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the system as the Bureau of Customs may deem to be appropriate.”

SECTION 3. Repealing Clause. All executive issuances, rules, regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked, amended and modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this **16th** day of **July**, 2007.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 636
TRANSFERRING THE PHILIPPINE MINING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WHEREAS, the Philippine Mining Development Corporation (formerly the Natural Resources Mining Development Corporation) is a government-owned and controlled corporation primarily tasked to conduct and carry on the business of exploring, developing, mining, smelting and producing, transporting, storing, distributing, exchanging, selling, disposing, importing, exporting, trading and promotion of gold, silver, copper, iron and all kinds of mineral deposits and substances;

WHEREAS, in order to closely monitor and oversee the efficient and effective implementation of the country's utilization and development of its mineral resources, there is a need to transfer the Philippine Mining Development Corporation from the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources to the Office of the President;

WHEREAS, under Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of the Administrative Code of 1987, the President has the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Transfer.* — The Philippine Mining Development Corporation is hereby transferred from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to the Office of the President.

SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.* — All executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. *Effectivity.* — This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

City of Manila, 18th July 2007.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 637

PROVIDING THE BASIS FOR THE COMPUTATION OF THE INCENTIVE BENEFITS
OF PERSONNEL WHO MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RATIONALIZATION PROGRAM UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER (EO) NO. 366, S. 2004

WHEREAS, EO 366 dated 04 October 2004 directs all Department Secretaries/Agency Heads to take the lead in pursuing the conduct of a strategic review of the operations and organizations of all their component units, including those of the agencies and government-owned and/or controlled corporations (GOCCs)/government financial institutions (GFIs) attached to or under their respective administrative supervision, to focus government efforts on its vital/core functions and channel government resources to these core public services, thus improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government services, within affordable levels, and in the most accountable manner;

WHEREAS, in the implementation of the Rationalization Program under EO 366, personnel assigned to functions, programs, projects and units that would be affected would be given the option to either: (1) *remain in government service* and be placed in other government agencies needing additional personnel; *or* (2) *avail of retirement/separation benefits*, plus the applicable incentive;

WHEREAS, EO 611 (Authorizing Compensation Adjustments to Government Personnel) dated 14 March 2007 provides for a 10% increase effective 01 July 2007 over the basic monthly salary as of 30 June 2007 of all civilian national government personnel whose positions are covered by the Position Classification and Compensation System under RA 6758, as amended;

WHEREAS, equity and fairness must be ensured in granting incentives to all affected personnel who opted/are opting to avail of retirement/separation benefits;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. *Guidelines in the Computation of Incentives.* The incentive benefits that would be received by personnel who would opt to avail of the retirement benefit under **RA 660** *or* the applicable retirement, separation or unemployment benefit provided under **RA 8291** as a result of the rationalization efforts of the different Departments/Agencies/GOCCs/GFIs of the Executive Branch, and whose retirement/separation from government service would be effective starting 01 July 2007 or a later date, shall be computed using the actual monthly salary of said personnel as of **30 June 2007**.

The affected personnel's terminal leave benefits and retirement/separation benefits which would be provided by the National Government and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), respectively, shall be computed using the existing Department of Budget and Management and GSIS rules and regulations on the matter at the time of their retirement/separation.

The Department Secretaries/Agency Heads shall be accountable for the correct computation of the incentive benefits of affected personnel in their respective offices.

Section 2. *Repealing Clause.* All executive orders, rules, regulations and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order, are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

Section 3. *Effectivity.* This Executive Order shall take effect upon its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **24th** day of **July**, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). [*Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 638

MODIFYING THE RATES OF DUTY ON CERTAIN IMPORTED ARTICLES AS PROVIDED UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMITMENT TO GRANT RECIPROCAL TARIFF RATE TREATMENT ON TARIFF LINES INCLUDED IN THE SENSITIVE TRACK OF THE ASEAN-KOREA FREE TRADE AREA

WHEREAS, the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation (Framework Agreement) between the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Korea was signed by the Heads of Government/State of the ASEAN Member States and Korea on 13 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

WHEREAS, Articles 1.3 and 2.1 of the Framework Agreement reflect the Parties' commitment to establish the ASEAN – Korea Free Trade Area (AKFTA) covering trade in goods by 2010 for ASEAN 6 and Korea, and by 2016 or 2018 for the newer ASEAN Member States;

WHEREAS, the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement was signed by the Economic Ministers of the Parties on 24 August 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

WHEREAS, Article 3(2)(b) of the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement provides that tariff lines placed in the Sensitive Track by each Party shall have their respective applied MFN tariff rates reduced or eliminated within timeframes in accordance with the modalities set out in Annex 2 of the Agreement;

WHEREAS, the aforesaid Annex 2 of the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement provides that the reciprocal tariff rate treatment of tariff lines placed by an exporting Party in the Sensitive Track, excluding Group E, while the same tariff lines are placed by the importing party in the Normal Track, shall be governed by the following conditions: (a) the tariff rate for a tariff line placed by an exporting Party in the Sensitive Track, excluding Group E, must be at 10% or below and the exporting Party has given notification to that effect to the other Parties in order for that exporting Party to enjoy reciprocity; (b) the reciprocal tariff rate to be applied to a tariff line placed by an exporting Party in the Sensitive Track shall be either the tariff rate of exporting Party's tariff line, or the Normal Track tariff rate of the same tariff line of an importing Party from whom reciprocity is sought, whichever is higher; (c) notwithstanding subparagraph (b), the importing party can, on its own discretion, apply its Normal Track tariff rate even if such rate is lower than the tariff rate of the exporting party; and (d) the reciprocal tariff rate to be applied to a tariff line placed by an exporting Party in the Sensitive Track shall in no case exceed the applied MFN rate of the same tariff line of an importing Party from whom reciprocity is sought.

WHEREAS, Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978 (PD 1464), as amended, empowers the President of the Republic of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority, to modify import duties for the promotion of foreign trade;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The products of the other Parties under their Sensitive Track in Annex “A” hereof, will be accorded reciprocal tariff treatment as governed by Paragraph 7 of Annex 2 of the Agreement on Trade in Goods after a notification has been received from the Party/Parties that the rates of duty of products in its Sensitive Track are at 10% and below. For confirmation of the products covered by this reciprocity rule, the Tariff Commission, upon request shall issue tariff classification rulings pursuant to Section 1313(a) of the Tariff and Customs Code, as amended.

SECTION 2. From the date of effectivity of this Order, all articles listed in Annex “A” entered into or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption shall be imposed the rates of duty therein prescribed subject to compliance with the Rules of Origin as provided for in Article 5 of the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement.

SECTION 3. All presidential issuances, administrative rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Done in the City of Manila, this **21st** day of **July**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 639

MODIFYING THE RATES OF DUTY ON CERTAIN IMPORTED ARTICLES AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMITMENT TO REDUCE TARIFF RATES ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS INCLUDED IN THE NORMAL TRACK OF THE ASEAN-KOREA FREE TRADE AREA

WHEREAS, the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation (Framework Agreement) between the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Republic of Korea (Korea) was signed by the Heads of Government of the ASEAN Member countries and Korea on 13 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

WHEREAS, Articles 1.3 and 2.1 of the Framework Agreement reflect the Parties' commitment to establish the ASEAN - Korea Free Trade Area (AKFTA) covering trade in goods;

WHEREAS, the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement was signed by the Economic Ministers of the Parties on 24 August 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

WHEREAS, Article 3(2)(a) of the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement provides that tariff lines placed in the Normal Track by each Party shall have their respective applied MFN tariff rates gradually reduced or eliminated in accordance with the modalities set out in Annex 1 of the Agreement with the objective of achieving the targets prescribed in the threshold therein;

WHEREAS, the aforesaid Annex 1 of the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement provides that ASEAN 6 and Korea shall implement the following tariff reduction schedule for products in the Normal Track not later than 1 January 2006; (a) applied MFN tariff rates above 20% shall be reduced to 20%; (b) applied MFN tariff rates from 15% to 19% shall be at 15%; (c) applied MFN tariff rates from 10% to 14% shall be at 10%; (d) applied MFN tariff rates from 6% to 9% shall be reduced to 5%; and (e) applied MFN tariff rates from 0% to 5% shall be maintained;

WHEREAS, the NEDA Board approved during its meeting on 17 July 2007 the reduction in tariff rates on products included in the Normal Track in compliance with the modalities set out in the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement;

WHEREAS, Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978 (PD 1464), as amended, empowers the President of the Republic of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority, to modify import duties for the promotion of foreign trade;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The articles specifically listed in Annex "A" (Articles Granted Tariff Concession Under the Normal Track of the ASEAN – Korea Free Trade Area) hereof, as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be subject to the AKFTA rates in accordance with the schedule indicated in Columns 4-6 of Annex "A". The AKFTA rates so indicated shall be accorded to imports coming from the parties of the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the

Framework Agreement applying tariff concession to the same product pursuant to Article 3 of the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement.

SECTION 2. For ASEAN 8 (i.e. Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao Peoples Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Vietnam) the applicable rate shall be the AKFTA or the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) rate whichever is lower, subject to the submission of the proper Certificate of Origin, Form AK or D. The Tariff Commission pursuant to Section 1313(a) of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, may, upon request, issue tariff classification rulings to confirm the applicable rates of duty of particular products subject to this section.

SECTION 3. In the event that any subsequent change is made in the basic (MFN) Philippine rate of duty on any of the article listed in Annex “A”, to a rate lower than the rate prescribed in Columns 4-6 of Annex “A”, such article shall automatically be accorded the corresponding reduced duty.

SECTION 4. From the date of effectivity of this Order, all articles listed in Annex “A” entered into or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption shall be imposed the rates of duty therein prescribed subject to compliance with the Rules of Origin as provided for in Article 5 of the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement.

SECTION 5. All presidential issuances, administrative rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Done in the City of Manila, this 21st day of July, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 640
EXTENDING FURTHER THE DURATION OF OPERATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL
MIDDLE EAST PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE (PMEPC) TO DECEMBER 31, 2007

WHEREAS, the term of the Presidential Middle East Preparedness Committee (PMEPC) expires on June 30, 2007 pursuant to E.O. 597 dated January 12, 2007;

WHEREAS, tensions, political instability, and armed conflicts continue to exist in some countries of the Middle East that directly threaten the safety and security of thousands of Filipino workers in these countries;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for the PMEPC to continue to assess and monitor developments and update contingency measures to ensure the safety of Filipinos in the Middle East, prepare and establish a specific contingency plan each for the potential crises in some countries, and to uphold the current ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq and Lebanon;

WHEREAS, the PMEPC is also tasked to provide continuing assistance to the Department of Foreign Affairs, as well as to other government agencies concerned with OFW safety, security, and protection, and in the formulation and implementation of policies, plans, and modes of coordination in areas where there are a significant presence of OFWs;

WHEREAS, under Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of the Administrative Code of 1987, the President has the continuing authority to reorganize the functions of the Office of the President.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the extension of the duration of the operations of the PMEPC to December 31, 2007 or unless otherwise directed by the President.

SECTION 1. The PMEPC shall continue to exercise its functions and responsibilities as provided for under EO 159 dated December 23, 2002, in relation to EO 194 and EO 195, both dated April 14, 2003.

SECTION 2. Composition – The membership of the PMEPC, as enumerated under Section 3 of EO 159, as amended by EO 549 and EO 597, respectively, is hereby retained;

SECTION 3. Funding – The Committee shall be provided with an additional funding allocation of **FIVE MILLION PESOS (P5,000,000.00)** for its administrative and operational expenses to be provided by the Office of the President. Additional financial requirements that may be needed by the Committee shall be sourced out by the Department of Budget and Management from available funds of the concerned PMEPC member-agencies, subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 4. Repeal – All other rules, regulations and issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Effectivity – This Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 25th day of July, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 641
AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION
OF PROVIDENT FUNDS IN THE GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, Provident Funds were established in government banking institutions pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 4537, funded out of the contributions made by the bank and its officers and employees;

WHEREAS, Section 41, General Provisions of RA No. 7180, the FY 1992 General Appropriations Act (GAA), authorized that any surplus of service fees deposited with the National Treasury be constituted into a Provident Fund which shall be available for loaning purposes; and Administrative Order No. 279, s. 1992 prescribed the attendant rules and regulations;

WHEREAS, subsequent GAAs reiterated the constitution of Provident Funds, now charged against service fees, which shall be available also for welfare benefits' purposes;

WHEREAS, other government-owned and/or controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs) were authorized to establish Provident Funds;

WHEREAS, Provident Funds supplement retirement or separation benefits and provide alternative sources of loan financing;

WHEREAS, there is a need to prescribe uniform rules and regulations for the establishment and administration of Provident Funds in the government;

WHEREAS, the Committee on the Protection of Income of Government Employees created pursuant to Executive Order No. 462 dated September 19, 2005, advocates the "Institutionalization of the Agency Provident Fund" as one of the measures to provide supplementary benefits to government employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Purpose – A Provident Fund is hereby authorized to be established in each government agency to be administered in accordance with the objectives, policies, governing structure and general guidelines indicated herein.

SECTION 2. Objectives – The Provident Fund shall serve as a savings and loan credit facility that may cater to the needs of government officials and employees; and shall provide supplementary welfare benefits from the Fund.

SECTION 3. Policies – The establishment and administration of the Provident Fund shall be guided by the following policies consistent with established management principles and practices:

- a. Membership in the Provident Fund shall be voluntary;
- b. Employees and employers alike shall share roles in the establishment and administration of Provident Funds;

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- c. Reasonable regulatory structures shall be established to ensure uniformity, integrity and viability of the operation of the Provident Fund;
 - d. Consistent with the principles of fair remuneration and equity, all officers and employees should have guaranteed access to the Provident Fund and should have the same rights and privileges under the Fund. There should be no special rules to benefit executives or a select group of employees;
 - e. The Provident Fund should be managed prudently by a Board of Trustees with equal representation from the employer and employees to preserve Fund accounts, safeguard the viability of the Fund and ensure the security of members;
 - f. To encourage employees to contribute as much as they can to the Fund, as well as preserve their Provident Fund accounts and not withdraw their shares before retirement or separation, advocacy measures should be instituted;
 - g. Members should have strong legal protections with government enforcement capabilities against the loss of Provident Fund assets due to fraud, theft or fiduciary mismanagement.

SECTION 4. Funding Sources – The Provident Fund shall be sourced from the following:

- (a) Members' contributions;
- (b) Initial government agency counterpart contributions in the form of support for reasonable operating requirements in the administration and operation of the Fund such as the part-time assignment of existing personnel and the use of necessary agency facilities and equipment; and
- (c) Such other fund sources as may be provided for by laws, and those which the Board of Trustees of the Fund may thereafter identify as legal, valid and authorized funding sources.

Government cash contributions to be sourced from savings may be authorized in the future as the government's financial position would allow, subject to the guidelines that will be issued by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

SECTION 5. Governance – The Provident Fund shall be managed by a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, with adequate representation from the employer and employees. The agency's highest official directly responsible for financial affairs may be designated as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 6. Functions and Responsibilities of the Board – The Board shall be directly responsible for the efficient and effective administration of the Provident Fund. Its functions shall be as follows:

- a. Promulgate, implement and enforce the rules and regulations governing the use, operation, and investment of the Fund;
 - b. Identify and secure other legal, valid and authorized sources of funds to provide better credit facility and welfare benefits for the members;
 - c. Determine the type, use and amounts of loans that may be granted and prescribe the applicable repayment schedule and interest rates;
 - d. Determine the benefits due to members of the Fund;
 - e. Establish the eligibility requirements for membership, claimants and grantees of the Fund;
 - f. Approve membership, loans to employees after considering the poverty threshold limit, benefits, and expenditures from the Fund;
 - g. Designate or appoint officers and staff of standing committees for the Fund from among the regular personnel of the agency, and prescribe their duties, and responsibilities;
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- h. Create and constitute regional boards if and when the size and spread of operations so warrant and delegate such functions as may be necessary;
- i. Determine sanctions/liabilities of officers managing the Fund and of violators of the rules and regulations of the Fund; and
- j. Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives and purposes of this Order.

SECTION 7. Restriction on Compensation and Expenses – All members, officers and staff of the Board shall serve without compensation, except for payment of actual overtime services rendered by the support staff. Reasonable expenses incurred by the members of the Board in connection with Board activities may, however, be reimbursed upon presentation of receipts and other documentary evidences in support of claims. Any claim for reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred in connection with activities of the Board shall be evaluated and processed in accordance with existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 8. Accounting and Auditing Requirements – The Provident Fund and its operations shall be subject to existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 9. Reporting Requirement – The Board of Trustees shall submit to the members thereof an annual report on the operation of the Fund and its financial condition at the end of each year, copy furnished the Office of the President and the Department of Budget and Management.

SECTION 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations – The DBM shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days from the issuance of this Order, without prejudice to the immediate establishment or setting-up of a Provident Fund by the agencies.

SECTION 11. Separability Clause - If any part or provision of this Executive Order is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions not affected shall remain valid and effective.

SECTION 12. Effectivity – This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 25th day of July, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 642

AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 474, SERIES OF 1998, TO DESIGNATE THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AS THE PROGRAM MANAGER OF THE MINDANAO
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the first phase of the Mindanao Rural Development Program (MRDP-1) supported by the Government of the Philippines through an adaptable program loan from the World Bank was concluded I 2004;

WHEREAS, MRDP-1 implementation in 32 municipalities of North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Agusan del Sur, Compostela Valley and Maguindanao in Mindanao through better-targeted and sustainable agriculture and fisheries-related rural development and marine biodiversity conservation projects triggered improvements in incomes and food security of participating households and enhanced the institutional, technical, management and financial capabilities of the local government units (LGUs);

WHEREAS, the learning-by-doing approach adopted in MRDP-1 provided an operational model on how a national sectoral agency like the Department of Agriculture (DA) can facilitate the devolution of functions and responsibilities to the LGUs;

WHEREAS, the DA, as the lead national government agency of MRDP is responsible for coordinating the preparations for the next phases of the program;

WHEREAS, the expanded geographic coverage of the next phase of the program under MRDP-2 and the coordination of activities streamlined into the DA's regional field units requires clear accountabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Lead Agency. The MRDP's Program Management Board is hereby abolished and its responsibilities transferred to the DA.

For this purpose the DA shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Provide policy directions to guide the planning and implementation of Program activities;
- b. Provide overall direction in harmonizing functions of collaborating national agencies;
- c. Mobilize existing resources of, and encourage the support and participation of National Government Agencies, LGUs and National Government Institutions;
- d. Approve the organizational structure and staffing requirements of the Program Support Office (PSO) and Regional Program Coordination Office (RPCO);
- e. Review and endorse the annual budget of the MRDP-2;
- f. Review and take appropriate action on operational and administrative matters;
- g. Reorganize the PSO and RPCO;
- h. Perform such other functions and responsibilities as the President may direct.

The Special Projects Coordination and Management Assistance Division of the DA (SPCMAD) shall serve as the technical and administrative secretariat of the DA for the implementation of the MRDP. The SPCMAAD shall have the following functions in its implementation:

- a. Provide pre-implementation assistance to the PSO in setting up the RPCOs;
- b. Coordinate with the RPCOs through the PSO in the preparation of initial global and annual work and financial plans, and facilitate the approval of such plans and their inclusion in the annual budget of the DA;
- c. Conduct operational monitoring of the Program and coordinate the dissemination of physical and financial progress reports and other information requirements to NEDA, DBM, DOE, the World Bank and other stakeholders;
- d. Review and analyze the projects' physical and financial progress reports, audit and technical reports and other study/activity reports and subsequently prepare recommendations to the DA management;
- e. Coordinate with the funding agency and other offices on the various implementations of the project; and
- f. Perform such other functions as the Secretary of DA may direct.

Section 2. DA Regional Field Office (DA-RFU). The DA-RFU in the six (6) regions of Mindanao shall serve as the regional counterpart of the DA. For the MRDP it shall have the following functions:

- a. Ensure that policy directions are carried out in the planning and implementation of MRDP-2 activities within the region;
- b. Ensure overall direction toward the harmonization of project roles and responsibilities of collaborating regional offices;
- c. Mobilize existing resources of, and encourage the support and participation of LGUs, People's Organizations and non-government organizations;
- d. Review and recommend appropriate actions to resolve operational and administrative issues that cannot be solved at the lower levels of the overall implementation structure;
- e. Review the progress of implementation and of project activities and provide guidance to improve Project performance; and
- f. Endorse annual regional work and financial plan to the Undersecretary for Operations.

Section 3. Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). The BFAR shall assist the Program's implementing units in achieve the objectives and accomplishing the targets set for the Natural Resource Management component as well as for the Coastal Marine and Biodiversity Conservation Component, under the Global Enhancement Fund. The Director of BFAR shall assign a focal person at the central office and its regional offices in Mindanao, who shall coordinate closely with the DA-RFUs in general, and with the RPCOs in particular.

Section 4. PSO. The PSO is hereby created, which shall provide support to the RPCOs in the DA. The PSO shall have the following functions:

- a. Assist in setting up the RPCOs and provide technical assistance to enable them to fulfill their functions in MRDP-2;
 - b. Ensure that all activities are properly coordinated with the RPCOs;
 - c. Promote cohesion and synergy in the planning and implementation of the project;
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- d. Facilitate a quarterly conference of RPCOs to promote integration;
 - e. Recommend to the Undersecretary for Operations/Project Implementation Officer through the SPCMAD policy and institutional reforms;
 - f. Consolidate regional reports on physical and financial progress of implementation and submit these to the Undersecretary for Operations/PIO through the SPCMAD;
 - g. Undertake periodic reviews and evaluation of the Program;
 - h. Preparation and consolidation of Implementation Financial Report;
 - i. Advocate and support social and environmental safeguard compliance;
 - j. Review and consolidate annual and financial Plan; and
 - k. Ensure Indigenous Peoples' participation in the Program.

The PSO shall be headed by a full-time Program Director to be appointed by the DA Secretary. The PSO shall have a staff complement, the composition and structure of which shall be reviewed and approved by the DA Secretary. It shall be supervised by the Office of the Undersecretary for Operations and shall coordinate with the DA-SPCMAD regarding the overall implementation of the project activities during the project duration. It shall report to the SPCMAD.

As a phase out plan on the PSO, the DA Secretary shall ensure that necessary steps are taken toward the gradual institutionalization of the management and supervision of MRDP to the SPCMAD, and all the coordination functions to the DA-RPCOs with the aim of mainstreaming the program's various processes in the DA's organic structures. The SPCMAD will report to the PIO as mandated.

Section 5. RPCO. RPCOs shall be created and organized in each of the six DA-RFUs. The RPCOs shall be supported by existing staff of the DA-RFUs. They shall have the following functions:

- a. Lead in the preparation of a regional multi-year and annual work and financial plan;
- b. Provide technical assistance to enable LGUs to meet program policies, standards and processes;
- c. Institutional use of participatory approach in the preparation of local development plans;
- d. Ensure the integration of local plans into regional plans;
- e. Process and validate sub-project proposals from the LGUs and provide feedback to the proponents of on the status of such proposals;
- f. Monitor the physical and financial progress of Provincial Program Management Implementing units plan implementation in accordance with agreed reporting arrangements as prescribed in the projects' Management Information System and Monitoring and Evaluation System; and
- g. Coordinate with partner agencies or other relevant institutions in the region with respect to the delivery of required services of implementing units.

Section 6. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect following its publication.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 24th day of July, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACANANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 643
PLACING THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT (PCGG)
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 1 s. 1986 created the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) as a body vested with authority to file recovery cases involving ill-gotten wealth, to undertake sequestration and preservation of ill-gotten wealth or properties, and to investigate and file, through the Office of the Ombudsman, cases for graft and corruption as may be assigned to it from time to time;

WHEREAS, EO 2 s. 1986 likewise authorizes the PCGG to request and appeal to the foreign governments to freeze and prevent the transfer, conveyance, encumbrance, concealment or liquidation of ill-gotten wealth or properties found within their respective jurisdictions, pending the outcome of the appropriate proceedings in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the authority of the PCGG to issue sequestration and freeze orders under Proclamation No. 3 s. 1986 has lapsed in accordance with Section 26, Article XVIII of the Constitution;

WHEREAS, the functions of the PCGG are currently focused on the recovery and preservation of ill-gotten wealth, as well as the proper investigation and prosecution of cases involving the same;

WHEREAS, there is a need to concentrate and enhance government efforts for the full and effective recovery of ill-gotten wealth and properties, including the efficient investigation and prosecution of cases relative thereto;

WHEREAS, as the principal legal counsel and prosecution arm of the government under Section 3, Chapter 1, Title III, Book IV of the Administrative Code of 1987, the Department of Justice (DOJ) is likewise involved in matters requiring international legal cooperation;

WHEREAS, Section 31 (3), Chapter 10, Title III, Book III, of the Administrative Code of 1987, authorities the President to transfer any agency under the Office of the President to any other department or agency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Transfer of Functions.*—The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) shall hereby be placed under the administrative supervision of the Department of Justice. Unless otherwise provided, the Secretary of Justice or his duly authorized representative shall exercise the foregoing functions for and in behalf of the President.

SECTION 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The Department of Justice shall issue the implementing guidelines for the effective implementation of this Executive Order.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* — All executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Effectivity.* — This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE, in the City of Manila this 27th day of July, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 644

**TRANSFERRING THE TOLL REGULATORY BOARD (TRB) FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS**

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 112 created the Toll Regulatory Board to closely supervise and regulate the collection of toll fees for the use of certain public improvements and the operation of toll facilities by the private sector viewed as an alternative source of financing to ensure the prosecution of infrastructure projects that complement the overall national development effort;

WHEREAS, Section 23, Chapter 5, Title XV, Book IV of Executive Order No. 292 placed TRB under the Department of Transportation and Communications as an attached agency;

WHEREAS, in keeping with the policy of the government of enhancing efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of government programs, the realignment of the assigned responsibilities with respect to attached agencies of some Departments is imperative;

WHEREAS, Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution provides that the President shall have control of all executive departments, bureaus, and offices and shall ensure that all laws be faithfully executed;

WHEREAS, the President of the Philippines has continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President by, among others, transferring any agency under the Office of the President to any other department or agency of the Government pursuant to paragraph 3, Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of Executive Order No. 292;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL - ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Transfer Toll Regulatory Board to DPWH. The Toll Regulatory Board is hereby transferred to and made an attached agency of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

SECTION 2. Repealing Clause. All executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 30th day of July, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 645

AMENDING SECTION 4 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO 423 DATED 18 SEPTEMBER 2003
WHICH PRESCRIBES THE RULES AND PROCEDURES ON THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF
ALL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS TO CONFORM TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184 OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS “THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT”

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Executive Order 423 dated 18 September 2003 prescribes that in cases where government contracts amounting to at least P500 Million, the Head of the Procuring Entity is required to obtain an opinion and approval from the Government Procurement Policy Board and the Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority before resorting to any of the alternative methods of procurement;

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to amend Section 4 of Executive Order No. 423 dated 18 September 2003 to streamline and expedite procurement procedures for a more effective procurement system;

WHEREAS, the Government Procurement Policy Board, in its Resolution No. 06-2006 dated 20 January 2006, recommends the issuance of this Executive Order;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby amend Section 4 of Executive No. 423 to read as follows:

Section 4. Approval of Government Contracts Entered Into Through Alternative Methods of Procurement

a. For Government Contracts Involving An Amount Of At Least Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000.00). – Where the Head of the Procuring Entity has made a determination that a Government contract, including Government contracts required by law to be acted upon and/or approved by the President, involving an amount of at least Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000.00) falls under any of the exceptions from public bidding described in Section 3 hereof, the Head of the Procuring Entity shall, before proceeding with the alternative methods of procurement provided by law and applicable rules and regulations, *obtain the approval of the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) that said Government proposed procurement undertaking falls within the exceptions from public bidding and that the proposed specific alternative mode of procurement is appropriate.*

Except for Government contracts required by law to be acted upon and/or approved by the President, the Heads of the Procuring Entities, after obtaining the foregoing requirements, shall have full authority to give final approval and/or to enter into said Government contracts of their respective agencies, entered into through alternative methods of procurement allowed by law. Provided, that the Head of the Procuring Entity certifies

under oath that the contract has been entered into in faithful compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

SECTION 2. Except for the foregoing amendment, all other provisions of Executive Order No. 423 shall remain unchanged.

SECTION 3. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila this **31st** day of **July**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 646

ACCESSIBILITY OF INFORMATION ON TAXPAYERS BETWEEN THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS FOR TAX COLLECTION PURPOSES

WHEREAS, information on taxpayers is vital to the effective collection of taxes by both the national government and the local government units;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Local Government Units (LGUs) can help each other in their collection efforts through accessibility of information that they have on record as regards their respective taxpayers;

WHEREAS, in order to ascertain the correctness of any return, or in making a return when none has been made, or in determining the liability of any person for any internal revenue tax, or in collecting any such liability, or in evaluating tax compliance, Section 5 (B) of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 (NIRC) empowers the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to obtain on a regular basis from, among others, any office or officer of the local governments any information such as, but not limited to, costs and volume of production, receipts or sales, and gross income of taxpayers;

WHEREAS, Section 270 of the NIRC penalizes any BIR officer or employee who divulges information regarding the business income, or estate of any taxpayer, the secrets, operation, style or work, or apparatus of any manufacturer or producer, or confidential information regarding the business of any taxpayer, knowledge of which was acquired by him in the discharge of his official duties;

WHEREAS, as an exception to Section 270 of the NIRC, Section 171 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that records of the revenue district office of the BIR shall be made available to the local treasurer, his deputy or duly authorized representative for the purpose of ascertaining, assessing, and collecting the correct amount of local taxes, fees or charges.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. LGUs' Access to Records/Information. - In order to ascertain, assess, and collect the correct amount of local taxes, fees or charges, the BIR records pertaining to any person, partnership, corporation or association subject to local taxes, fees, and charges shall be made available to the local treasurer, his deputy or duly authorized representative.

SECTION 2. BIRs' Access to Records/Information. - For the purpose of ascertaining the correctness of any return, or in making a return when none has been made, or in determining the liability of any person for any internal revenue tax, or in collecting any such liability, or in evaluating tax compliance, the LGUs, upon proper request of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue or his duly authorized representative, shall provide the BIR with any information such as, but not limited to, costs and volume of production, receipts or sales, and gross incomes of taxpayers.

SECTION 3. Utilization of Records/Information. - The LGUs' access to records of, or information provided for by, BIR and vice versa shall be utilized for the aforementioned purposes only, and shall not be used for any other purpose, or disclosed to unauthorized persons.

SECTION 4. Guidelines. - The Department of Finance shall prepare and issue the necessary guidelines for the effective implementation of this Executive Order, with due regard to the security of taxpayers' information.

SECTION 5. Administrative Penalty. - Failure on the part of the BIR and the LGUs to comply with the directives under this Executive Order shall make them liable for administrative sanction pursuant to existing laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. - If any provision of this Executive Order is declared invalid, the remainder thereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. - All laws, decrees, and orders, or parts thereof, inconsistent therewith are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Effectivity. - This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 3rd day of **August**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 647
**AUTHORIZING AN EMINENT PERSONS GROUP TO OVERSEE THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF NASUGBU, BATANGAS TOURISM**

Section 1. *Declaring of Policy.* – Consistent with the avowed policy of the State to promote tourism in the country, the sustainable development of Nasugbu, Batangas as a priority tourism destination is hereby declared. To this end the government shall plan, undertake, and cause the implementation of support projects and programs to preserve the attractiveness of Nasugbu, Batangas as a major tourism destination.

Section 2. *Creation of a Special Tourism Zone.* – Areas included in the Nasugbu Tourism Development Plan prepared by the Municipality of Nasugbu and validated by the Philippine Tourism Authority as Tourism Priority Areas are hereby proclaimed as a Special Tourism Zone.

Section 3. *Empowering Eminent Persons to Oversee Nasugbu Tourism Development.* – To ensure the effective implementation of the above-stated policy, there is hereby recognized the existence of a group of eminent persons concerned with the sustainable development of Nasugbu tourism. From such a group, the President of the Philippines shall designate a Nasugbu Eminent Persons Group, composed of a Chairman and at least four (4) Members, empowered to oversee the sustainable development of Nasugbu tourism in behalf of the President of the Philippines and the Secretary of Tourism.

Section 4. *Territorial Scope.* – The territorial scope of Nasugbu special Tourism Zone shall cover the areas included in the Nasugbu Tourism Development Plan prepared by the Municipality of Nasugbu and validated by the Philippine Tourism Authority.

Section 5. *Principal Area of Activity.* – The principal area of activity of the Eminent Persons Group shall be in Nasugbu, Batangas

Section 6. *Powers.* – The Eminent Persons Group shall have the following powers:

- a. Formulate plans for the sustainable development of tourism in Nasugbu;
- b. Recommend to the Philippine Tourism Authority such rules and regulations as may be necessary to ensure compliance with the requirement of Nasugbu tourism's sustainable development;
- c. Advocate to the people of Nasugbu, to their elected officials in the barangay, municipal and provincial levels and to the national government, the policies that will foster the sustainable development of Nasugbu;
- d. Prioritize the major projects of Nasugbu as consistent with the plans for sustainable development;
- e. Coordinate enterprises within Nasugbu which may be necessary to the sustainable development of Nasugbu;
- f. Cause the proper land use projects and practices for Nasugbu; and
- g. Ensure the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage of Nasugbu.

Section 7. *Private Sector Nature.* – So long as the Eminent Persons do not require government funding for their activities, they shall retain their private sector character. If they so request and receive

government funding for their activities, they shall acquire the nature of government officials and shall therefore be subject to laws, rules and regulations applicable to government officials.

Section 8. *Group Secretary.* – The Eminent Persons Group shall have a Group Secretary who shall be a government official to be appointed by the President of the Philippines.

Section 9. *Administration and Control of the Philippine Tourism Authority.* – The Philippine Tourism Authority, through the Group Secretary of the Eminent Persons Group in coordination with the Municipal Government of Nasugbu, shall exercise administration and control over Nasugbu Special Tourism Zone pursuant to Section 5 (D) of PD 564.

Section 10. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the compensation and operating expenses of the Group Secretary shall be appropriated out of the funds of the Philippine Tourism Authority.

Section 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Executive Order or the application of such provision is declared unconstitutional or illegal, the remaining provisions shall not be affected by such declaration.

Section 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All orders, rules, regulations and issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 13. *Effectivity.* – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

City of Manila, 03 August 2007.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). [*Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 648

ATTACHING THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS (DOTC) TO THE
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (CICT)

WHEREAS, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) is attached to the Department of Transportation and Communications;

WHEREAS, Section 20, Chapter 7, Title I, Book III of EO 292 (Administrative Code of 1987) provides that the President has the continuing authority to reorganize the Executive Branch of government;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The National Telecommunications Commission is hereby attached from the Department of Transportation and Communications to the Commission on Information and Communications Technology.

SECTION 2. All executive issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **6th** day of **August**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 649

TRANSFERRING THE PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORPORATION FROM THE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY,
AND DESIGNATING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AS *EX-OFFICIO*
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD THEREOF

WHEREAS, the Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC), by virtue of Executive Order no. 345, series of 2004, was transferred from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to the Office of the President in order for the latter to closely monitor and oversee the efficient and effective implementation of the Government's commitment under the President's 10-Point Legacy:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order No. 442, series of 2005, the PITC has been designated as the lead coordinating agency to make quality, essential and life-saving medicines available, affordable and accessible to the greater masses of Filipinos, in consonance with the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan for 2005 - 2010;

WHEREAS, under Executive Order No. 326, series of 2004, the President shall appoint the Chairman of the PITC Board;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the DTI to monitor the development, regulatory, and service delivery undertakings of the PITC pertinent to international trade and commerce;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the Secretary of Health to assume the chairmanship of the PITC Board to ensure continuous supply of high quality, safe, effective and affordable drugs and medicines; and

WHEREAS, under Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of the Administrative Code of 1987, the President has the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Transfer.* – The Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) is hereby transferred from the Office of the President to the Department of Trade and Industry.

SECTION 2. *Chairman of the PITC Board.* The Secretary of Health shall be the *ex-officio* Chairman of the PITC Board.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All executive issuances or portions thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked, amended or modified accordingly

SECTION 3. *Effectivity.* – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 8th day of AUGUST, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 649-A

AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 649 (S. 2007) BY DESIGNATING THE SECRETARY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY AS *EX-OFFICIO* CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, PITC AND THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AS *EX-OFFICIO* CHAIRMAN OF THE PITC-PHARMA, INC., AMONG OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order (EO) No. 649 (s. 2007), the Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) was transferred from the Office of the President to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) so that the latter could effectively monitor the development, regulatory, and service delivery undertakings of PITC pertinent to international trade and commerce;

WHEREAS, there is a need to transfer PITC-Pharma, Inc. to the Department of Health (DOH) to ensure available, affordable and accessible medicine to the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, there is likewise a need to designate the Secretary of Trade and Industry as ex-officio chairman of the PITC; and the Secretary of Health as ex-officio chairman of the PITC-Pharma, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, under Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of the Administrative Code of 1987, the President has the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of EO 649 (s. 2007) is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 2. *Chairman of the PITC Board.* – The DTI Secretary shall be designated as the ex-officio Chairman of the PITC Board”

SECTION 2. A new section in EO 649 (s. 2007) shall be added to read as follows:

“Section 2-A. *Transfer of PITC-Pharma, Inc. to DOH and designating the Secretary of Health as ex-officio Chairman thereof.* – The PITC-Pharma, Inc. shall be transferred to the DOH and the Secretary of Health shall be designated as the ex-officio Chairman thereof.”

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* — All executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Effectivity.* — This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

City of Manila, 10 April 2008.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO R. BUNYE**

Acting Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE PHILIPPINES
MALACAÑANG

MALACAÑANG RECORDS OFFICE

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 650

Based on the records available on file and in the possession of Malacañang Records Office, Executive Order No. 650 of Presidential Issuances of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was certified by their office as a reserved number and that no original copy of this issuance was forwarded and released to them.

Malacañang Records Office. (2015). *[Memorandum: certification and official count of Presidential Issuances]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 651
STRENGTHENING THE GRASSROOTS PROGRAM OF THE
PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Section 13, Article 11 of the 1987 Constitution declares that the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being;

WHEREAS, Section 17, Article 11 of the 1987 Constitution states that the State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development;

WHEREAS, in addition to the above principles, Section 19(1), Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution mandates that the State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry;

WHEREAS, Filipinos have excelled in international competitions in such sports as boxing;

WHEREAS, the Philippines aspires to have at least one gold medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympics;

WHEREAS, studies made in the United States and Canada showed that children who played chess performed better and received higher scores on standardized tests for both reading and math;

WHEREAS, the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan calls for strengthening education in math, science and English;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 6847 created the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) to carry out the above conditional policies and principles in coordination with the various government departments and agencies and private entities;

WHEREAS, the PSC has a Grassroots Program to carry out the above programs;

Now Therefore I, Gloria M. Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Grassroots Program of the PSC shall be strengthened to develop potential gold medalists in the Olympics as well as to encourage children to play chess so as to help their reading and math skills.

SECTION 2. The Grassroots Program shall endeavor to:

- a. Plan, implement and oversee a comprehensive educational and training program for boxing, chess and other sports with Olympic gold potentials in coordination with various sectors including, among others, the respective sports federations, the Philippine Olympic Committee, public and private schools, local governments and private corporations;
- b. Discover special talent and skills in boxing, chess and other sports with Olympic gold potentials from among students enrolled in the country's public and private schools through competitive tournaments;

-
- c. Develop and hone the aptitude of boxing, chess and other sports with Olympic gold potentials of known exceptional players including those discovered through tournaments;
 - d. Develop a pool of grade school and high school scholars in chess and sports with Olympic gold potentials who will be given training and financial support;
 - e. Support aspiring potential Masters and Olympic gold medalists to gain their titles;
 - f. Develop and promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Executive Order;
 - g. Conduct promotional and awareness campaigns for chess and sports with Olympic gold potentials to achieve the objectives of an Olympic gold and improved reading and math skills; and
 - h. Exercise such other acts as are incident to or are appropriate and necessary in connection with the strengthening of the program.

SECTION 3. The Grassroots Program for each sport shall be managed by a program Task Force composed of five members to be appointed by the President from among the following:

- a. PSC, Chairman
- b. Philippine Olympic Committee, Co-Chairman
- c. The relevant sports federation, Program Director
- d. Philippine University Games, Member
- e. Business Community, Member

SECTION 4. Each Task Force shall appoint from among its members a full-time Operating Officer who shall direct and supervise the day-to-day operations of the Program and shall have control and supervision over the administrative management of the Program.

SECTION 5. The Grassroots Program shall consist of the following three main components:

- a. First Phase – Early recruitment and training
- b. Second Phase – Development and training of the talents of the National Training Pool for the appropriate certification
- c. Third Phase – Elite training and preparation for international competitions for the purpose of obtaining an Olympic gold medal or Grandmaster title.

SECTION 6. The Program shall be provided with an operation fund of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000) to be drawn from the mandatory contribution of the Philippine Amusement and Games Corporation to the PSC in addition to the annual budget appropriations from the PSC.

The PSC is hereby empowered to conduct fund raising activities by donations benefits and other means for financial purposes of augmenting its operation budget.

SECTION 7. All executive issuances, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

DONE in Manila on 7 August, 2007.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 652
CREATING THE PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE TO ASSESS, PLAN
AND MONITOR THE ENTIRE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Presidential Commission on Educational Reform, or PCER, was created in 1998 to continue and build on the work of the 1991 Congressional Commission on Education to further strengthen the role of education in accelerating national development and global competitiveness;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. (EO) 273 (Series of 2000) created a National Coordinating Council for Education (NCCE);

WHEREAS, EO 632 amended EO 273 (Series of 2000) and mandated a Presidential Assistant (PA) for Education in place of the NCCE to assess, plan and monitor the entire educational system;

WHEREAS, pursuant to EO 273 now EO 632, in the discharge of its functions and responsibilities, the NCCE now the Office of the PA for Education may commission highly qualified experts/specialists and/or education consultancy groups to provide specific services;

NOW, THEREFORE I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Creation. – There is hereby created the Presidential Task Force to Assess, Plan and Monitor the Entire Educational System.

Section 2. Composition and Organization. – The Task Force shall be composed of the following:

- 1.) Secretary, Department of Education
- 2.) Chairman, Commission on Higher Education
- 3.) Chairman, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
- 4.) Presidential Assistant for Education
- 5.) Five (5) representatives from the private sector to be appointed/designated by the President.

The Chairman of the Task force shall be designated by the President from among the representatives from the private sector, and co-chaired by the Chairman, Commission on Higher Education.

Section 3. Powers and Functions. – The Task Force shall exercise the following functions and duties:

1. To design a mechanism in the holding of regular for a for trans-subsectoral consultations on cross-cutting policies and programs;
2. To identify strategies to dovetail the goals and objectives of the education system, especially tertiary education, to national development plans;
3. To review existing and proposed programs from all the three (3) education agencies of government and other government agencies with education programs for tighter inter-subsector coordination;

4. To provide guidelines in setting priorities for the education system, especially tertiary education, and recommend corresponding financial requirements;
5. To design the monitoring scheme for the implementation of reforms proposed by the PCER as updated by the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan of the Arroyo administration, especially on tertiary education;
6. To provide directions in the establishment of the National Educational Evaluation and Testing Systems and Operations, as well as oversee and monitor the implementation thereof;
7. To recommend and provide guidelines for Philippine representatives in international and national conferences/meetings with cross-cutting themes or concerns in education; and
8. To lead in the convening of a biennial National Congress in Education involving the three (3) levels for the purpose of assessing, updating/upgrading and strengthening the entire educational system and its components.

Section 4. Inter-Agency Assistance and Coordination. – All other departments, bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the government, including government-owned or controlled corporations, are hereby directed to cooperate with the Task Force in the performance of its mandate under this Executive Order.

Section 5. Rewards. – The members of the Task Force shall be entitled to rewards, incentives and other entitlements as may be provided under existing laws and pertinent rules and regulations.

Section 6. Report. – The Task force shall submit its report and proposal to the President not later than twelve (12) months from the start of its function.

Section 7. Funding. – The funds for the Task Force shall be drawn from the budget of the PA for Education as specified in Section 12 of EO 273 (Series of 2000) as amended by EO 632.

Section 8. Repealing Clause. – All other orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 9. Effectivity. – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 21st day of August, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 652-A
AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 652 (SERIES OF 2007) BY INCLUDING THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION AS A MEMBER OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE TO ASSESS, PLAN AND MONITOR
THE ENTIRE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 652 (Series of 2007) created the Presidential Task Force to Assess, Plan and Monitor the Entire Educational System;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of the Executive Order No. 652 enumerates the composition and organization of the Presidential Task Force to Assess, Plan and Monitor the Entire Educational System, namely:

1. Secretary, Department of Education
2. Chairman, Commission on Higher Education
3. Director General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
4. Presidential Assistant for Education
5. Five (5) representatives from the private sector to be appointed/designated by the President

WHEREAS, there is a need to synchronize and harmonize the government's educational policies, programs and initiatives becomes all the more urgent given our country's standing in world competitiveness;

WHEREAS, such a need makes it imperative to include in the Presidential Task Force to Assess, Plan and Monitor the Entire Educational System, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC);

NOW THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Amendment. Section 2 of Executive Order No. 652 dated August 21, 2007 is hereby amended to read, as follows:

“Section 2. Composition and Organization. – The Task Force shall be composed of the following:

1. Secretary, Department of Education
2. Chairman, Commission on Higher Education
3. Director General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
4. Chairman, Professional Regulation Commission
5. Presidential Assistant for Education
6. Five (5) representatives from the private sector to be appointed/designated by the President”

Section 2. Repealing Clause. – All executive issuances inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 3. Effectivity. – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **25th** day of September, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). [*Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 652-B

AMENDING FURTHER EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 652 (SERIES OF 2007) BY INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COORDINATING COUNCIL OF PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (COCOPEA) AS REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO THE PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE TO ASSESS, PLAN AND MONITOR THE ENTIRE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 652 (series of 2007) created the Presidential Task Force to Assess, Plan and Monitor the Entire Educational System;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Executive Order No. 652 enumerates the composition and organization of the Presidential Task Force to Assess, Plan and Monitor the Entire Educational System, namely:

1. Secretary, Department of Education
2. Chairman, Commission on Higher Education
3. Director General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
4. Presidential Assistant for Education
5. Five (5) representatives from the private sector to be appointed/designated by the President

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 652-A, dated September 25, 2007, amended Section 2 of the Executive Order No. 652 by including the Chairman of the Professional Regulation Commission as a member of the Presidential Task Force to Assess, Plan and Monitor the Entire Educational System;

WHEREAS, the need to synchronize and harmonize the government's educational policies, programs and initiatives becomes all the more urgent given our country's standing in world competitiveness;

WHEREAS, such a need makes it imperative to include in the Presidential Task Force to Assess, Plan and Monitor the Entire Educational System, the Chairman of the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA) as a representative from the private sector, increasing to six (6) the representatives from the private sector to be appointed/designated by the President;

WHEREAS, Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution provides that the President shall have control of all executive departments, bureaus and offices and shall ensure that all laws be faithfully executed;

WHEREAS, paragraph 2, Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of Executive Order No. 292 grants the President the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President and the power to transfer any function under the Office of the President to any other Department;

NOW THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Amendment. Section 2 of Executive Order No. 652 dated August 21, 2007 is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Section 2. Composition and Organization. – The task force shall be composed of the following:

1. Secretary, Department of Education
2. Chairman, Commission on Higher Education
3. Director General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
4. Chairman, Professional Regulation Commission
5. Presidential Assistant for Education
6. Six (6) representatives from the private sector to be appointed/designated by the President.”

Section 2. Repealing Clause – All executive issuances inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 3. Effectivity. – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 18th day of January, 2008.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 653
AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NOS. 380 AND 380-A,
SERIES OF 2004 AND 2006, RESPECTIVELY

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1084 created the Public Estates Authority (PEA);

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 380 dated October 26, 2004 transformed the PEA into the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), with the non-reclamation assets and liabilities transferred to the Department of Finance (DOF);

WHEREAS, EO No. 380-A dated April 3, 2006 clarified certain provisions of EO No. 380 (2004), whereby only non-reclamation assets were to be transferred to the National Government;

WHEREAS, the agreement of PRA with DOF to convey to the latter a 62-hectare reclaimed land in Central Business Park I – Islands B & C (CBP-IBC) in Parañaque City in exchange for the DOF's assumption PRA's liabilities never materialized;

WHEREAS, there is a need to clarify further what reclamation assets should be retained by PRA;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is interested in acquiring 40-hectares of the CBP-IBC property, and PRA has reserved such portion to PAGCOR by way of a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 19, 2006.

WHEREAS, the amendment of Section 3 of EO Nos. 380 and 380-A, series of 2004 and 2006, respectively, is necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Section 3 of Executive Order No. 380 dated October 26, 2004 and Section 3 of Executive Order No. 380-A dated April 3, 2006 are hereby amended as follows:

“Section 3. The reclamation assets to be retained by PRA shall include all its existing reclaimed lands, whether fully or not, developed or undeveloped; all those lands to be reclaimed; all horizontal and vertical improvements and buildings on reclaimed lands, all the funds derived from disposition or use of reclaimed lands; all other properties acquired by PRA through the proceeds/income of reclaimed lands and reclamation undertakings; and proceeds/income of all PRA properties acquired from the preceding reclamation assets.

It is hereby understood that no liability shall be transferred to the National Government.”

Section 2. All executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 3. This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **9th** day of **August**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE PHILIPPINES
MALACAÑANG

MALACAÑANG RECORDS OFFICE

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 654

Based on the records available on file and in the possession of Malacañang Records Office, Executive Order No. 654 of Presidential Issuances of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was certified by their office as a reserved number and that no original copy of this issuance was forwarded and released to them.

Malacañang Records Office. (2015). *[Memorandum: certification and official count of Presidential Issuances]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 655
CREATING THE PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON THE SECURITY OF ENERGY FACILITIES
AND ENFORCEMENT OF ENERGY LAWS AND STANDARDS

WHEREAS, Republic Act (RA) No. 7638 creating the Department of Energy (DOE) provides in Section 2 thereof a State policy that ensures a continuous, adequate and economic supply of energy with the end in view of ultimately achieving self-reliance in the country's energy requirements through the integrated and intensive exploration, management, and development of the country's indigenous energy resources, and through the judicious conservation, renewal and efficient utilization of energy to keep pace with the country's growth and economic development and taking into consideration the active participation of the private sector in various areas of energy resource development;

WHEREAS, the rationalization, integration, and coordination of various programs of the government towards self-sufficiency and enhanced productivity in power and energy without sacrificing ecological considerations is also provided in RA No. 7638;

WHEREAS, the DOE is mandated to exercise supervision and control over all government activities relative to energy projects, and regulate private sector activities as provided under existing laws;

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure the security and protection of energy and power related facilities and associated infrastructure, and enforcement of energy and related laws and standards, to safeguard the welfare of the consumers against violators of energy rules and regulations, such as in liquefied petroleum gases and smuggling of petroleum products, amongst others;

WHEREAS, there is a need to have a comprehensive plan and national coordinating mechanism on the protection of energy facilities and enforcement of energy and related laws and standards, to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the management of energy resources relative to their exploration, development, utilization, distribution, and conservation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. The Presidential Task Force on the Security of Energy Facilities and Enforcement of Energy Laws and Standards. – The Presidential Task Force on the Security of Energy Facilities and Enforcement of Energy Laws and Standards, hereinafter referred to as the PTF-SEFEELS, is hereby created under the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC), to be headed by the Department of Energy (DOE). The PTF-SEFEELS shall act with resolve and urgency to ensure the security and protection of energy and power-related facilities and associated infrastructures and enforcement of energy and related laws and standards.

Section 2. Composition. – The PTF-SEFEELS shall be composed of the Department of Energy as Chair, with the Departments of National Defense (DND), Interior and Local Government (DILG), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Science and Technology (DOST), and Trade and Industry (DTI) as members.

Section 3. Functions and Responsibilities. – The PTF-SEFEELS shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

1. Formulate a comprehensive national plan for the security and protection of energy and power-related facilities and associated infrastructure;
2. Provide overall coordination in the implementation of the national plan;
3. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the national plan. Regular security inspection and review of specific security plans of energy and power-related facilities and infrastructure shall be conducted;
4. Conduct regular assessment of potential threats, both man-made and natural, to the energy and power-related infrastructure;
5. Coordinate and provide assistance in the enforcement of energy and related laws and standards;
6. Conduct enforcement operations on compliance to energy and related laws and standards;
7. Recommend policies and strategies to improve the security and protection of energy and power related facilities and enforcement of various energy and related laws and standards;
8. Formulate and implement innovative and strategic interventions that are inter-agency in nature;
9. Conduct information and education campaign on the need for securing and protecting energy and power-related facilities and enforcing various energy and related laws and standards; and
10. Perform such other functions as may be directed by the President.

Section 4. Operations Center. – An Operations Center is hereby created, based at the DOE. The Operations Center shall be headed by an Executive Director, with the rank of Undersecretary whose designation shall be approved by the President. The personnel of the Operations Center shall be recruited and contributed by members of the PTF-SEFEELS, to be designated by the Chair with the approval of the President.

Section 5. Deactivation of the National Anti-Environment Crime Task Force. – The National Anti-Environment Crime Task Force (NAECTAF) created under the PAOCC through Executive Order (EO) No. 515 issued on March 15, 2006 is hereby deactivated. All personnel and assets assigned to NAECTAF shall be transferred to the PTF-SEFEELS.

Section 6. Agency Assistance. – All departments, agencies, offices or instrumentalities, including government-owned or controlled corporations, are hereby directed to provide support, assistance and resources of the PTF-SEFEELS in the discharge of its functions.

Section 7. Funding. – The PTF-SEFEELS shall source its operational fund from unprogrammed funds of the DOE, and/or as may be recommended and/or approved by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). Starting budgetary year 2008, its operating budget shall be incorporated in the budgetary allocation of the DOE and member-agencies. The initial funds shall be used for the operation of the PTF-SEFEELS and the Operations Center, preparation of national plans and information and education campaigns, and enforcement activities.

Section 8. Non-Diminution of Mandates. – Nothing in this Executive Order shall diminish the mandates, functions and responsibilities of all concerned agencies.

Section 9. Repeal. – All executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 10. Effectivity. – This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **22nd** day of **August**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 656
CREATING AN INTERNATIONAL MEDIA OFFICE

I, **GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO**, President of the Philippines, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. There is hereby created an International Media Office (IMO) under the Office of the Press Secretary with support and additional staff seconded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, the National Security Council, the Philippine Information Agency, the Department of Tourism, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Department of Labor and Employment. The Investor Relations Office is hereby enjoined likewise to support the IMO.

SECTION 2. The IMO is mandated to monitor overseas media coverage and plan/coordinate initiatives to project government messages in international media in support of national interests and governance thrusts in security, law and order, economic, diplomatic, political, social and other areas.

SECTION 3. The IMO shall coordinate closely with our Philippine embassies and consulates abroad.

SECTION 4. The IMO shall be provided with a fund of Thirty Million Pesos (₱30,000,000.00) for communication campaigns, charged to the Office of the Press Secretary and other sources as may be identified by the Department of Budget and Management.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 24th day of August, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 657
AMENDING SECTION 1 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 480 DATED 27 DECEMBER 2005

WHEREAS, the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC) was created under the Office of the President to bring about focus and substantive results in the campaign of the Government against criminality;

WHEREAS, the membership of the PAOCC had been updated several times to meet the exigencies of changing times, the latest of which was by virtue of Executive Order No. 480 (s. 2005);

WHEREAS, enhanced coordination between the Government and the private sector is important in the fight against criminality;

WHEREAS, the Administrative Code of 1987 empowers the President with the continuing authority to reorganize the Office of the President;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Amendment of Section 1 of Executive Order No. 480 (s. 2005).* – Section 1 of Executive Order No. 480 (s. 2005) is hereby amended to read as follows:

“The Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission shall now be composed of the following:

The President	Chairman
The Secretary of the Interior and Local Government	Vice-Chairman
The National Security Adviser	Member
The Secretary of Justice	Member
The Secretary of National Defense	Member
The Secretary of Transportation and Communications	Member
The Secretary of Foreign Affairs	Member
Four (4) representatives from the Private Sector to be appointed by the President	Member

The President may designate a Co-Vice-Chairman from among the members representing the private sector.”

SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All executive issuances or portions thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. *Effectivity.* – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **28th** day of **August**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 658

**ADJUSTING THE COLLATERAL ENTITLEMENT OF UNIFORMED MEMBERS OF THE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES WHO DIRECTLY ENGAGE IN ACTUAL COMBAT
AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE DIFFERENT NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT GROUPS**

WHEREAS, the Government fully appreciates the heroism and sacrifices of the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) who are directly involved in combat operations to preserve the internal security of the country;

WHEREAS, the Government recognizes that the effectiveness of these frontline soldiers in the pursuit of their mandated tasks is largely dependent on a host of factors which include, among others, the adequacy of their compensation and benefits;

WHEREAS, in acknowledgment of this reality, it is the policy of the Government to provide, within its fiscal means, such deserving members of the armed forces a more rational collateral pay for combat duties;

WHEREAS, the Government recognizes that the attainment of socio-economic and political reforms only becomes possible under conditions of secure and stable environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Combat Incentive Pay* – Members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who figure directly in actual combat against members of the various insurgent, terrorist and lawless groups shall be entitled to an additional combat incentive pay of Php150.00 per day while actually engaged in combat operation effective July 1, 2007. This collateral pay shall be over and above the Php240.00 per month that members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines assigned in field units are currently entitled to for combat duties.

SECTION 2. *Specific Guidelines* – The grant of the collateral pay shall be subject to conditions as follows:

- a. The operation must be for a specific combat mission that is duly covered by an Operations Order (OPORD) or a Fragmentary Order (FRAG-O);
- b. The personnel involved in combat engagements must be in the published task organization of the OPORD; and,
- c. The total additional combat incentive pay for each individual shall not exceed Php1,500.00 per OPORD/FRAG-O.

SECTION 3. *Funding* – The initial funding of Seventy Three Million (Php73,000,000.00) Pesos necessary to implement this Executive Order shall be drawn from the President's Social Fund (PSF) subject to established accounting and auditing rules and regulations. Any additional funding requirement for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 shall be determined in coordination with the Department

of Budget and Management (DBM) and shall be submitted to the Office of the President for approval. Thereafter, appropriations starting fiscal year 2009 shall be incorporated in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Guidelines* – The Department of National Defense shall prepare and issue the necessary guidelines for the implementation of this Executive Order.

SECTION 5. *Repeal* – All executive orders, rules and regulations, and other or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity* – This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 6th day of September, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). [*Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 659
IMPROVING THE NEGOTIABILITY AND ACCEPTABILITY OF AGRARIAN REFORM BONDS

WHEREAS, Section 2, Chapter I of Republic Act No. 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL), as amended, provides, among others, that “The State shall provide incentives to landowners to invest the proceeds of the agrarian reform program to promote industrialization, employment and privatization of public sector enterprises. Financial instruments used as payment for lands shall contain features that shall enhance negotiability and acceptability in the marketplace”.

WHEREAS, Section 18 (4), Chapter VI, of the same law, allows the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) Bonds and/or Agrarian Reform (AR) Bonds as the financial instruments to be used for paying lands under the CARP up to the amount of their value and/or acquiring shares of stock of government financial institutions, and in paying for various taxes and fees to government;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 267, s. 1995, provides for the issuance of national government bonds known as Agrarian Reform Bonds which are negotiable at anytime and which AR Bonds replaced the LBP Bonds or land transfer payments under the agrarian reform program with the same features of the LBP Bonds;

WHEREAS, although a major feature of the AR Bonds is alignment of the market interest rate with the 91-day treasury bill, these bonds are not competitive with similar government securities like Small Denominated Treasury (SDT) Bonds, ERAP Bonds, and the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP)-sponsored issue of Pag-IBIG Bonds;

WHEREAS, complaints have been lodged by the affected landowners on the lack of acceptability of their bonds compared to other government bonds, and in the refusal of government entities to accept directly from landowners, AR Bonds at face value, but at a discounted price lessening the credibility of government bonds as instruments of indebtedness and further strengthening the resistance of landowners whose lands are sought to be taken and paid for with these government bonds.

WHEREAS, the aforementioned conditions also diminish the just compensation due the landowners when their landholdings are covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP);

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *National Government Guaranty.* AR Bonds are deemed and considered as issued by the National Government. These bonds are the direct, unconditional and general obligation of the Republic of the Philippines.

SEC. 2. *Features of AR Bonds.* AR Bonds shall have the following features:

- a. Market interest rates aligned with 91-day treasury bill rates. Ten percent (10%) of the face value of the bonds shall mature every year thereafter from the date of issuance of the bond;

Provided, that should a landowner choose to forego the cash portion, whether in full or in part, he shall be paid correspondingly in AR Bonds.

- b. Transferability and negotiability. The AR Bonds may be used by the landowner, his successors-in-interest or his assigns.

SEC. 3. *Usage of AR Bonds.* AR Bonds may be used by the landowner, his successor-in-interest or his assignees, up to the amount of their face value, for any of the following:

- a. Acquisition of land or other real properties of the government, including assets under the Asset Privatization Program and other assets foreclosed by government financial institutions in the same province or region where the lands for which the bonds were paid are situated;
- b. Acquisition of shares of stock of government-owned or controlled corporations or shares of stock owned by the government in private corporations;
- c. Substitution for surety or bail bonds for the provisional release of accused persons, or for performance bonds;
- d. Security for loans with any government financial institution, provided the proceeds of the loans shall be invested in an economic enterprise, preferably in a small and medium scale industry, in the same province or region as the land for which the bonds are paid;
- e. Payment for various taxes and fees to the government, provided that the use of these bonds for these purposes shall be limited to a certain percentage of the outstanding balance of the financial instruments, and provided further, that the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) shall determine the percentage mentioned above.
- f. Payment for tuition fees of the immediate members of the family of the original bondholder in government universities, colleges, trade schools, and other institutions;
- g. Payment of fees of the immediate members of the family of the original bondholder in government hospitals; and
- h. Such other uses as the PARC may, from time to time, allow.

SEC. 4. *Acceptance of AR Bonds as Payment*

- a. The portion of the 10-year AR Bond that has matured or will mature within the given year in which the tax liability shall be paid or for such percentage of the outstanding balance of the bond as determined by the PARC under Sec. 18, (4) (v) of RA 6657 of the AR Bonds held by the landowner/taxpayer and/or successors-in-interest or assignees shall be accepted as payment for tariff and duties and the following internal revenue tax liabilities, but not limited to, except withholding tax for non-withholding or non-remittance of taxes withheld;

- a.1 Income taxes;
- a.2 Capital gains tax due from individual taxpayers;
- a.3 Estate tax;
- a.4 Donor's tax;
- a.5 Value added tax (VAT);
- a.6 Excise tax;
- a.7 Other percentage taxes;
- a.8 Deficiency tax assessment arising from tax investigations;

-
- a.9 Surcharge, interest and penalties arising from late filling of returns and/or payment of taxes; and
 - a.10 Tax arrearages and penalties.
 - b. The 10-year AR Bonds can be used up to the amount of their face value by the landowner, in whose name the bonds were issued, as well as by his successors-in-interest or assignees, for the following:
 - b.1 Payment of real estate taxes, interest charges and penalties;
 - b.2 Payment of various fees, interest charges and penalties that may be assessed against private or government banks and other financial institutions by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and other government agencies in the course of their operation;
 - b.3 Acquiring shares of stock of government-owned and/or controlled corporations or shares of stock owned by the government in private corporations;
 - b.4 Security deposit of foreign corporations with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC); and
 - b.5 Performance bond of housing contractors with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB).
 - c. AR Bonds shall be accepted as collateral for securing loans from government financial institutions but at a discounted value, subject to the condition that the proceeds of the loan are to be invested in an economic enterprise.

SEC. 5. *Eligibilities.* AR Bonds shall enjoy the same form of eligibilities granted to SDT Bonds, ERAP Bonds, BAP-sponsored Pag-IBIG Bonds and other government bonds that may be issued in the future. Such eligibilities include, among others, the following:

- a. Capital reserve instruments for insurance companies and investment for Reserve funds for pre-need companies;
- b. Performance and judicial bonds;
- c. Reserve for trust duties;
- d. Liquidity floor requirements for government funds or deposits;
- e. Investments for small and medium enterprises (SME) funds; and
- f. Compliance with Agri-Agra Law.

SEC. 6. *Assistance of Other Government Entities.* The assistance of the Department of Finance (DoF) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and other concerned government agencies is hereby enjoined to extend full support to the AR Bonds as mandated by law.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Guidelines.* The LBP shall issue the guidelines to implement the provisions of this Executive Order in coordination with concerned government agencies.

SEC. 8. *Administrative Sanctions.* Failure to follow the directives of this Executive Order within 30 days from effectivity thereof shall subject concerned officials to administrative sanctions pursuant to existing laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* All Executive Orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **11th** day of **September**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). [*Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 660
RATIONALIZING THE TAX PRIVILEGE COVERING IMPORTATIONS BY REGISTERED
ENTERPRISES WITHIN THE SUBIC SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, under existing law, registered businesses and enterprises within the Subic Special Economic Zone are exempt from national internal revenue taxes and customs duties on their importations of raw materials, capital goods and equipment for their business operations;

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure that raw materials, capital goods and equipment, which will be imported by registered enterprises within the Subic Special Economic Zone, are only those required for their business activities and operations;

WHEREAS, the Government needs additional revenue to finance the country's economic and development programs and projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1. Importations of registered businesses and enterprises or locators within the Subic Special Economic Zone in excess of the requirements of their registered business or authorized business activity consisting of raw materials, capital goods and equipment shall be deemed brought into or sold within the customs territory and, therefore, subject to the payment of taxes and customs duties in accordance with existing customs and tax laws.

SECTION 2. The Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue, in coordination with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, shall issue appropriate issuances or circulars to clarify and/or simplify the documentation, procedures, tax treatment and payment of taxes and duties of the excess importations with the end view of effectively implementing this Order.

SECTION 3. All executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 13th day of September, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 661

**DIRECTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN AREAS NEAR OR ADJACENT TO
GEOTHERMAL-PRODUCING SITES IN ALBAY, LAGUNA, LEYTE, NEGROS ORIENTAL,
SORSOGON AND ALBAY, NORTH COTABATO, AND NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
TO DEVELOP ECONOMIC ZONES**

WHEREAS, the Philippines has one of the highest industrial power rates in Southeast Asia;

WHEREAS, majority of biggest power consumers are industrial locators in economic zones;

WHEREAS, there is a compelling need for a more reliable, economical, competitive, and efficient power supply to provide quality electricity to power-sensitive industrial locators in the economic zones and to encourage future locators;

WHEREAS, the government is adopting measures that would give open access to private and publicly-owned economic zones in sourcing their power with the end in view of lowering the power cost in the economic zones and to promote competitiveness;

WHEREAS, the government has identified, as potential sources of power for economic zones, seven (7) geothermal facilities, namely: (1) Tiwi in Albay; (2) MakBan, which borders Makiling and Banahaw in Laguna; (3) Tongonan, which borders Ormoc and Kananga in Leyte; (4) Palinpinon in Valencia, Negros Oriental; (5) BacMan, which borders Bacon and Manito in Sorsogon and Albay, respectively; (6) Mt. Apo in the border of Kidapawan, North Cotabato; and (7) Murcia in Negros Occidental;

WHEREAS, declaring certain areas adjacent to these geothermal-producing sites as economic zones will provide alternative locations for investors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. The respective local government units (LGUs) in areas near or adjacent to the following geothermal-producing sites shall develop economic zones in coordination with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA):

- (1) Tiwi in Albay;
- (2) MakBan, which borders Makiling and Banahaw in Laguna;
- (3) Tongonan, which borders Ormoc and Kananga in Leyte;
- (4) Palinpinon in Valencia, Negros Oriental;
- (5) BacMan, which borders Bacon and Manito in Sorsogon and Albay, respectively;
- (6) Mt. Apo in the border of Kidapawan, North Cotabato; and
- (7) Murcia in Negros Occidental

Section 2. The PEZA shall assist the LGUs concerned in the creation and development of the economic zones.

Section 3. All executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 4. Any portion or provision of this Executive Order that may be declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying its other portions or provisions, as long as such remaining portions can still be given effect.

Section 5. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **10th** day of **September**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 661-A

AMENDING SECTION 1, PARAGRAPH 7 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 661 DATED
SEPTEMBER 10, 2007 BY INCLUDING THE CITY OF BAGO WITH MURCIA IN NEGROS
OCCIDENTAL AS GEOTHERMAL-PRODUCING SITE

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 661 dated September 10, 2007 directed the Local Government Units in areas near or adjacent to geothermal-producing sites in Albay, Laguna, Leyte, Negros Oriental, Sorsogon and Albay, North Cotabato, and Negros Occidental to develop Economic Zones;

WHEREAS, Section 1, Paragraph 7 thereof identified Murcia in Negros Occidental as a potential source of power for an economic zone;

WHEREAS, the actual site of the geothermal plant of the Philippine National Oil Corporation is located in City of Bago, particularly in Barangay Mailum, while the Office and administration buildings are partly situated in the Municipality of Murcia in Negros Occidental;

WHEREAS, the inclusion of the City of Bago with Murcia shall reflect the actual site of geothermal production in Negros Occidental.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Section 1, Paragraph 7 of Executive Order No. 661, dated September 10, 2007, is hereby amended as follows:

“Section 1. XXX

XXX

(7) City of Bago and Municipality of Murcia in Negros Occidental”

Section 2. All executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 3. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **22nd** day of **November**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 662
ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY MEASURES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184 AND
CREATING THE PROCUREMENT TRANSPARENCY BOARD

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184) or the Government Procurement Reform Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) recognize and adopt transparency as a governing principle in public procurement;

WHEREAS, the projected increase in public sector capital spending under the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan requires transparency and compliance to the rule of law;

WHEREAS, there is a need for a body to monitor compliance to anti-graft mechanism, to deter anomalies in the awarding of public sector contracts and to prevent losses due to procurement irregularities;

WHEREAS, R.A. 9184 and its IRR-A empower the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) to protect national interest in all matters affecting public procurement and authorizes its Technical Support Office (GPPB-TSO) to monitor and assist procuring entities improve their compliance with R.A. 9184;

WHEREAS, the efficiency and effectivity of the GPPB in the performance of its monitoring function would be further enhanced through close coordination with a procurement transparency body;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY

SECTION 1. Procurement Reports. All National Government Agencies (NGAs), Government Owned and/or Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), Government Financial Institutions (GFIs), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and Local Government Units (LGUs), through their bids and awards committees are directed to post in the appropriate government website the following procurement reports as required under R.A. 9184 and its IRR-A:

- (a) Annual Procurement Plan;
- (b) Procurement Monitoring Report;
- (c) List of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations, or professionals' associations invited as observers; and
- (d) Blacklisting orders against suppliers, constructors, and consultants.

The GPPB shall cause to be maintained in the appropriate government website a database of proposed and concluded public sector contracts involving an amount of P100,000,000.00 and above.

SECTION 2. Posting in the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS). All NGAs, GOCCs, GFIs, Sucs, and LGUs, through its BACs, are likewise directed to post all their procurement opportunities, results thereof, and other related information in the PhilGEPS bulletin board, as required under Section 8.2.1 of the IRR-A of R.R. 9184.

Non-compliance with the foregoing posting obligations shall render the accountable officials liable for dereliction of duty and conduct grossly prejudicial to the best interest of the service, without prejudice to other charges, whether administrative, civil or criminal, that may be filed under appropriate laws and regulations.

THE BOARD

SECTION 3. Procurement Transparency Group. There is hereby created a PROCUREMENT TRANSPARENCY GROUP, headed by the GPPB and with the following government agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs) as members:

- a.) Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC);
- b.) National Economic and Development Authority;
- c.) Department of Justice;
- d.) Department of Budget and Management;
- e.) Department of Interior and Local Government;
- f.) Bishops-Businessmen's Conference for Human Development;
- g.) Transparency and Accountability Network;
- h.) Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption; and
- i.) Two (2) NGOs involved in training procurement observers and/or procurement reforms.

SECTION 4. Participation of Government Agencies. The heads of the government agencies shall, by special written authority, designate their duly authorized permanent representatives to the Group. The non-government organizations are invited to authorize, by special written authority, permanent representatives to the Group.

FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SECTION 5. The Group shall evaluate, comment on, record and monitor contracts entered into by NGAs, GOCCs, GFIs and SUCs involving an amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (100,000,000.00) and above.

5.1 For this purpose, pursuant to Procurement Law which requires at least one (1) NGO Observer in the BAC, there shall be one (1) NGO-member of the Group as specified above sitting as NGO Observer in the Bids and Awards Committee of NGAs, GOCCs, GFIs and SUCs for contracts involving an amount of P100,000,000.00 and above.

5.2. The NGO Observer shall call the attention of agency heads on potential non-compliance with R.A. 9184 and its IRR-A.

5.3. The NGO Observer shall discuss and address issued and concerns gathered from his/her procurement monitoring activities.

5.4. Based on the findings of the NGO Observer, the group shall make timely recommendations of remedial actions, improvements in procurement, contract implementation and monitoring processes to ensure compliance with contractual terms and to safeguard government and public interest.

5.5. The heads of agencies concerned, the Office of the Executive Secretary and such other agencies or offices as the Group may determine, shall be furnished copies of its comments and recommendations.

5.6. The Group shall perform such other functions needed to further enhance its monitoring capability and accountability.

SECTION 6. All relevant documents and information on contracts requested by the Group shall be provided by the concerned NGAs, GOCCs, GFIs, SUCs and LGUs without causing any delay in the bidding process.

SECTION 7. Upon findings of non-compliance with the foregoing directives, the Group shall recommend to PAGC the imposition of sanctions, implementation of remedial measures and the filing of criminal, civil and/or administrative charges, and provide information for actions that may be taken on its recommendations.

APPLICABILITY

SECTION 8. This Order shall not affect not modify existing functions of NGAs, GOCCs, GFIs, SUCs and LGUs relative to the processing, awarding, approval and review of procurement contracts except as herein specifically provided.

GUIDELINES AND DEPUTIZATION

SECTION 9. The Group shall issue guidelines for compliance and monitoring activities and utilize the personnel and facilities or its member agencies or organizations, and may, upon request, deputize and/or, on its own initiative, contract experts, local communities and government unit and non-government entities to assist in information gathering and evaluation, and in contract compliance monitoring. It may, subject to availability of funds, provide financial assistance to such deputized agencies or entities.

SEPARABILITY

SECTION 10. Any portion of this Executive Order that may be declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying its other portions or provisions, as long as such remaining portions can still be given effect.

EFFECTIVITY

SECTION 11. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 20th day of September, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 662-A
AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 662, SERIES OF 2007 ENTITLED “ENHANCING
TRANSPARENCY MEASURES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184 AND CREATING THE
PROCUREMENT TRANSPARENCY GROUP”

WHEREAS, Executive Order (E.O.) No. 662 entitled Enhancing Transparency Measures under Republic Act No. 9184 and Creating the Procurement Transparency Group was issued last September 20, 2007;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to amend E.O. No. 662 in order to encourage greater involvement of civil society organizations in the Procurement Transparency Group created thereunder, as well as to affirm their deep sense of volunteerism;

WHEREAS, positive action, founded on the principles of transparency and full disclosure, is called for to enlighten the general public on procurement activities perceived to be anomalous or problematic;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The last paragraph of Section 1 of E.O. 662, s. 2007 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“The GPPB shall cause to be maintained in the appropriate government website a database of proposed and concluded public sector contracts regardless of amount involved.”

SECTION 2. Section 3, 5 and 6 of E.O. No. 662, S. 2007, are likewise hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 3. Procurement Transparency Group. There is hereby created a PROCUREMENT TRANSPARENCY GROUP, headed by the GPPB and with the following agencies and non-government organizations as members:

- a) Presidential Anti-Graft Commission;
- b) National Economic and Development Authority;
- c) Department of Justice;
- d) Department of Budget and Management;
- e) Department of the Interior and Local Government;
- f) Five (5) NGOs/CSOs duly designated by the network of CSOs involved in training procurement observers and/or procurement reforms.

“SECTION 5. The Group shall evaluate, comment on, record and monitor procurement activities of NGAs, GOCCs, GFIs, SUCs and LGUs based on mode of procurement, amount of budget, volume, susceptibility to problems or anomalies and importance of the project to the developmental objectives of the country. For this purpose, the Group shall:

- 5.1 Strategically deploy trained observers to the BACs of NGAs, GOCCs, GFIs, SUCs and LGUs, which are in charge for the procurement of these identified projects;
- 5.2 Call the attention of agency heads on potential non-compliance with R.A. 9184 and its IRR-A;
- 5.3 Discuss and address issues and concerns gathered from the procurement monitoring activities of observers;
- 5.4 Based on its findings, recommend measures to the GPPB that will enhance transparency and streamline the procurement process;
- 5.5 Furnish copies of its recommendations and findings to the GPPB, the Office of the President, the Office of the Executive Secretary, heads of agencies concerned and such other agencies or offices as the Group may determine;
- 5.6 Perform such other functions needed to further enhance its monitoring capability and accountability.”

“SECTION 6. All NGAs, GOCCs, GFIs, SUCs and LGUs, through their BACs, are directed to cooperate and extend assistance to the deployed observers and the Group.

“In furtherance of the objectives of this Executive Order, all NGAs, GOCCs, GFIs, SUCs and LGUs are hereby directed to make available on a timely basis to the Group, and the general public, all procurement-related information, except those which are legally and judicially restricted.”

SECTION 3. All executive issuances or portions thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 15th day of November, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 662-B
AMENDING SECTION SEVEN OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 662 (SERIES OF 2007) ENTITLED
ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY MEASURES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184 AND
CREATING THE PROCUREMENT TRANSPARENCY BOARD

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 662 (series of 2007) created the Procurement Transparency Group to monitor compliance to anti-graft mechanisms, to deter anomalies in the awarding of public sector contracts and to prevent losses due to procurement irregularities;

WHEREAS, Section 7 of Executive Order No. 662 directs the Procurement Transparency Group to recommend to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission the imposition of sanctions, implementation of remedial measures and the filing of criminal, civil and/or administrative charges and provide information for actions that may be taken on its recommendations;

WHEREAS, there is a need to simplify the legal process in the determination and implementation of sanctions and the filing of criminal, civil and/or administrative charges against those that violate the directives of Republic Act 9184 of the Government Procurement Reform Act and Executive Order 662 (series of 2007);

WHEREAS, Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution provides that the President shall have control of all executive departments, bureaus and offices and shall ensure that all laws be faithfully executed;

NOW THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Amendment. Section 7 of Executive Order No. 662 dated September 20, 2007 is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Section 7. Upon findings of non-compliance with the foregoing directives, the Group shall recommend to the Office of the Ombudsman the filing of criminal, civil and/or administrative charges.”

Section 2. Repealing Clause – All executive issuances inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 3. Effectivity. – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 16th day of May, 2008.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 663

IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL COMMITMENT FOR “*BAKUNA ANG UNA SA SANGGOL AT INA*”, ATTAINING WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION’S GOALS TO ELIMINATE MEASLES AND NEONATAL TETANUS, ERADICATE POLIO, CONTROL HEPATITIS B AND OTHER VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

WHEREAS, the Philippines has set as one of its goals in the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) reduction of child mortality by two-thirds (2/3) by year 2015;

WHEREAS, the government already ratified the Conventions on the Rights of the Child (CRC) for children to attain the highest possible attainable level of health, survival and protection; and supported the World Health Assembly resolutions for improving child health and survival;

WHEREAS, the government has committed to the World Health Organization Regional Committee for the Western Pacific resolutions to eliminate/eradicate measles, neonatal tetanus, polio and control diphtheria, hepatitis B, pertussis, and childhood tuberculosis by year 2008;

WHEREAS, since the year 2000, the country has already eradicated polio nationwide and has been sustaining its polio-free status;

WHEREAS, the mass measles vaccination campaign in 2004, otherwise known as the “Ligtas Tigdas 2004”, demonstrated a 96% unprecedented decline of measles cases and deaths and also led to institutionalization of safe injection practices, though the use of the auto-disabled needles and syringes in immunizations, and established an appropriate immunization waste disposal in support of the “Philippine Clean Air Act 1999” and “Solid Waste Management Act 2003”;

WHEREAS, elimination, eradication control of the childhood vaccine-preventable diseases requires that at least 95% of our child population be fully immunized annually; that 80% of our pregnant mothers be vaccinated with tetanus toxoid to protect the newborn from neonatal tetanus and that all vaccine-preventable disease cases be detected, investigated and reported on a timely basis;

WHEREAS, low an unequally distributed routine immunization coverage in the country causes about 500,000 infants/children annually to remain unprotected, thus, rendering them susceptible to vaccine-preventable diseases and thereby threatens the country to outbreaks/ epidemics despite of the national purchases of a free, potent, and high quality vaccines for all infants/children and mothers;

WHEREAS, another mass measles vaccination campaign will reduce the number of children at risk of getting measles infections;

WHEREAS, achieving 95% fully immunized children and mothers will require unified commitments of the national government, local chief executives, health workers, communities and all sectors of the society;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Declaration of Objectives. - This Executive Order shall have the following objectives:

- a) Implement the national commitment for “*Bakuna ang Una sa Sanggol at Ina*”, Attaining World Health Organization’s Goals to Eliminate Measles and Neonatal Tetanus, Eradicate Polio, Control Hepatitis B and other Vaccine-preventable Diseases;
- b) Mobilize the national government, its agencies, instrumentalities, local government units, and other sectors of society in support of this national commitments.

SECTION. 2. Implementing Agencies. -

A. Lead Agency: Department of Health (DOH)

The DOH, as lead agency, shall implement the “*Bakuna ang Una sa Sanggol at Ina*” to strengthen the routine reaching of all mothers and infants with safe and effective vaccines; and to identify, investigate and report vaccine-preventable disease cases.

It shall embark on a mass measles vaccination campaign for all ages 9 months to 48 months old nationwide.

The DOH shall formulate, disseminate guidelines and procedures on implementing the “*Bakuna ang Una sa Sanggol at Ina*” including the introduction of new vaccines based on analysis conducted by a technical working group; provide technical assistance to Local Government Units (LGUs); conduct national/regional advocacy and social mobilization activities; provide, allocate and distribute in a timely manner all the necessary vaccines; and monitor submission of required reports of all LGU health system activities.

Jointly with Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), it shall compile, disseminate and publish semi-annual reports of progress and performance on this immunization program.

B. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)

The DILG shall advocate to all LGUs to achieve and maintain minimum standards of staffing, financial

support, supplies and communication advocacy to community representatives to achieve this goal. It shall submit quarterly reports of LGUs compliance to DOH.

C. Department of Education (DepEd)

The DepEd shall ensure the complete vaccination status of all children entering primary school.

It shall further ensure that mothers of all children with incomplete immunization shall be informed of the immunization program being provided by the government. It shall coordinate with the local government health units for the complete vaccination of these children. It shall identify and report any case of suspected vaccine-preventable disease, which has met the standard case definitions, to the concerned local health units. It shall annually monitor the school entry lists to ensure compliance by all schools and submit annual reports of schools’ compliance to DOH.

D. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

The DSWD shall ensure the complete vaccination status of all children in day care centers and pre-schools during the first week of school. It shall further ensure that mothers of all children with incomplete immunization shall be informed of the immunization program being provided by government. It shall coordinate with the local government health units for complete vaccination of these children. It shall identify and report any case of suspected vaccine-preventable disease, which has met the standard case definitions to the concerned local health units. It shall annually monitor daycare centers/pre-schools entry lists to ensure compliance of these schools and submit annual reports of schools' compliance to DOH.

E. Council for the Welfare for Children (CWC)

The CWC shall coordinate with DepEd, DSWD, DILG and LGUs, to ensure that all incompletely vaccinated children in schools, day-care centers, pre-schools, and other places, to be fully vaccine-preventable diseases cases among DOH, LGUs, DepEd and DSWD.

Jointly with DOH, it shall compile, disseminate and publish semi-annual reports of progress and performance on this immunization program.

F. Local Government Units (LGUs)

The LGUs shall ensure that every pregnant mother and infant are given complete immunization FREE OF CHARGE. Aside from the weekly health center-based vaccination sessions, it shall provide systematic outreach services to ensure full immunization of infants/children/mothers and other intervention that can save children's/mothers' lives. They shall organize regular immunization outreach services and other essential maternal and child health package of services. They shall maintain the standards set by DOH for staffing, provide adequate needles and syringes; finance traveling expenses of BHWs to carry-out the follow-up on the immunization services. They shall conduct vigorous social mobilization activities.

All health workers, including doctors, nurses and midwives, shall fully participate in providing free immunization, regardless of route-intramuscular, oral, subcutaneous, intradermal. All LGUs shall submit accomplishment reports of the immunization coverage and activities as follows: provinces and chartered cities to report quarterly vaccine coverage to regions; municipalities and component cities to report monthly vaccine coverage to provinces.

The LGUs shall identify and report all suspected vaccine-preventable disease cases that meet the standard case definition to the next higher level epidemiologic surveillance unit. They shall still submit weekly "zero reporting" even if there were no identified vaccine-preventable disease cases.

The LGUs shall conduct regular Supplemental Immunization Activities (SIAs) and/or "Child Health Days", as determined by, and according to the guidelines of DOH.

G. Civil Society

All members of the civil society, non-government organizations, professional organizations, and other concerned groups, are encouraged to support this national commitment for "*Bakuna ang Una sa Sanggol at Ina*", through issuances of resolutions, letters, and other mechanisms of information dissemination and social mobilization, to all members of their organizations.

Any children vaccinated outside the public health system should be reported to the local government unit. They shall identify and report any suspected vaccine-preventable disease cases meeting the standard case definitions to local government health units.

SECTION 3. Funding. – The Department of Health (DOH) shall provide funds for the procurement of quality vaccines for all eligible population. The Local Government Units (LGUs) shall provide funds for the procurement and disposal of auto-disabled needles and syringes for immunizations; travelling expenses for the mobilization of health staffs to reach and immunize all the infants/children and mothers and for other related activities.

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause. - All other rules, regulations and issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Effectivity. - This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **21st** day of **September**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 664
ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY MEASURES TO CONTROL AND ERADICATE THE SPREAD
AND DAMAGE OF BRONTISPA IN THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT INDUSTRY AND
DESIGNATING THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY AS THE LEAD
AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSE

WHEREAS, coconut is a major source of livelihood in 68 of the 79 provinces of the country;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has earned the niche as the top supplier of coconut products and by products in the world market contributing an estimated \$800 million net foreign earnings to sustain the economic lives of some 3.5 million coconut farmers and their families;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Coconut Authority is the government agency mandated to oversee the development of the coconut industry in all its aspects and ensure that such development redound to the interests of the coconut farmers;

WHEREAS, the Coconut Leaf Beetle (*Brontispa Longissima Gestro*) an invasive pest from Southeast Asia has found its way to the Philippines and is now considered as one of the most destructive pests of the coconut and ornamental palms thereby posing a grave threat to the vital coconut industry of the country if not properly controlled;

WHEREAS, to ensure the preservation and development of the coconut industry, there is a need to declare the implementation of emergency measures to control and eradicate the spread of *Brontispa* and designate the Philippine Coconut Authority as the lead agency for the purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law do hereby order:

SECTION 1. LEAD AGENCY. The Philippine Coconut Authority shall be the lead agency in implementing emergency measures to control and eradicate *Brontispa* in the country. For this purpose, the PCA shall prescribe the necessary rules and regulations for its immediate and effective implementation.

SECTION 2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCA. The PCA in order to effectively implement emergency measures can request the assistance of any local government unit or government agency to monitor and ensure compliance with the established emergency measures. For this purpose, the PCA may deputize the Philippine National Police (PNP) and other law enforcement offices to investigate and apprehend those caught violating the emergency measures including confiscation of coconut seednuts or seedlings. Specifically:

1. the PCA in coordination with the BPI shall establish such number of quarantine stations and designate roving inspectors and patrols to (i) monitor and report the extent of damage of *Brontispa*, (ii) the transport and movement of coconut planting materials and determine whether such activities are strictly complying with the pertinent requirements of laws, rules and regulations, (iii) inspect and inquire into the proper establishment, operations and registration of coconut seed nurseries and other persons or entities dealing with the transport and sale of coconut planting materials and to report their findings to the PCA with the Bureau of Plant

Industry (BPI) which in turn shall coordinate and render assistance to the implementation of safety measures particularly in the strict implementation of quarantine rules and regulations.

SECTION 3. PROHIBITIONS. Consistent with the guiding policies, no coconut planting materials be it seednuts or seedlings including any other palm specie shall be allowed to enter by land, or in any port or by air in the territorial jurisdiction of the country except in the following cases and only when a permit has been issued therefore:

- a. the source of the planting materials has been accredited by the PCA in the case of coconut and BPI in case of ornamental palms;
- b. the transport of seednuts or seedlings should be supported by a Permit to transport issued by the duly authorized personnel of the PCA stating among others that appropriate preventive measures such as spraying of appropriate chemicals has been instituted

SECTION 4. AUTHORITY TO TRANSPORT. The PCA shall have the exclusive authority to grant Permit to Transport for the shipment or movement of coconut planting materials from and to any points of the country.

SECTION 5. RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS. The LGUs shall assist in the local implementation of the emergency measures by extending appropriate resources for vigorous information campaigns, issuance of appropriate ordinances, resolutions and other relevant orders as well as recruitment of volunteers;

SECTION 6. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES. Those found violating the provisions of the established emergency measures shall be punished by:

- a. first offense – confiscation of illegally transported planting materials or the proper treatment of the pests including the conveyance used at the expense of the shipper/owner of the planting materials;
- b. Second offense – in addition to the confiscation of the planting materials, any violator should pay in the form of a fine in the amount of Five Hundred pesos (P 500.00) per seednut/seedling material illegally transported;
- c. Third and subsequent offenses – the confiscation of the plants and the payment of fine in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P 1,000.00) per planting material illegally transported.

The responsible PCA official found to have permitted, allowed or otherwise tolerated any violations of the provision of the emergency measures or its implementing rules or have connive or conspired shall be suspended or dismissed from office in accordance with the disciplinary provisions of the Administrative Code of 1987.

SECTION 7. SUPPORT FUNDS FOR OPERATIONS. The Department of Agriculture and the Philippine Coconut Authority shall allocate sufficient funds to support the implementation of emergency measures to control and eradicate Brontispa including the establishment of quarantine units and teams of inspectors and patrols organized pursuant to the established emergency measures and implementation of an effective public information dissemination campaign.

SECTION 8. IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES. The PCA shall adopt such implementing guidelines as may be necessary to implement this Executive Order.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVITY. This executive order shall take effect immediately after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

City of Manila, 25 September 2007

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 665
CONFERRING CABINET RANK UPON THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
PHILIPPINE MINING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order No. 636 (s. 2007), the Philippine Mining Development Corporation (PMDC) was transferred from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to the Office of the President in order to closely monitor and oversee the efficient and effective implementation of the country's utilization and development of its mineral resources;

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that the objectives of said transfer will be attained, there is a need to reclassify the Office of the PMDC Chairman as among those positions with a cabinet rank; and

WHEREAS, under Presidential Decree Nos. 1416 and 1772, the President has the continuing power to reorganize the administrative structure of the National Government, including the authority to classify positions therein.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by the powers vested in me by the Constitution and by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Ranking.* - The Office of the PMDC Chairman is hereby reclassified as among those positions with a cabinet rank, unless otherwise directed by the President.

SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.* — All executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. *Effectivity.* — This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

City of Manila, 25 September 2007

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) SEC. EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). [*Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 666

**DIRECTING ALL HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS, OFFICES, AGENCIES
AND INSTRUMENTALITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE POWER
INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS OF CLARK FREEPORT ZONE AND SUPPORT THE
INVESTMENT OF TEXAS INSTRUMENTS IN CLARK TEXAS INSTRUMENT SPECIAL
ECONOMIC ZONE AND BAGUIO CITY ECONOMIC ZONE**

WHEREAS, it is a declared national policy to attract foreign investment and trade in the country to promote economic growth, generate employment, upgrade technology and accelerate national development;

WHEREAS, on the 10-point agenda of the President includes the transformation of Clark Freeport Zone (CFZ) into a premier international service and logistic hub in the Asia-Pacific Region;

WHEREAS, to fulfill this vision for CFZ, the Philippine government has intensified its efforts to provide the necessary road and utility infrastructure to CFZ, among them the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway, the upgrading and expansion of the North Luzon Expressway, the North Rail and the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport Complex;

WHEREAS, under Presidential Proclamation No. 1284 dated April 30, 2007, the President had declared an area within CFZ consisting of 31.7 hectares, more or less, as Clark Texas Instruments Special Economic Zone (CTISEZ) where Texas Instruments (TI) will locate its expansion facility;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the concerned government entities to fulfill the commitments of the Philippine government to TI in return for the latter's decision to locate in the CFZ;

WHEREAS, the commitment of TI to maintain its facility in Baguio City Economic Zone (BCEZ) and locate its expansion project at (CTISEZ) shall bring in numerous suppliers of TI and this make the Philippines more attractive to foreign direct investments, thereby generating more locators in CFZ that will generate employment, boost exports, and enhance the country's economic growth;

WHEREAS, as a result of TI's committed investment, the forecasted power demand will increase and it is imperative to put up new power facilities in CFZ to provide reliable and quality electricity to power sensitive industrial locators, such as TI, and to encourage future locators;

WHEREAS, from the TI committed to locate its expansion facilities in CTISEZ, the Philippine government counterpart agencies are constrained to work on very tight schedules to complete the committed power infrastructure facilities;

WHEREAS, to address the projected power requirements of TI for redundant high voltage transmission system, TRANSCO and CDC agreed to build a more reliable transmission system to meet the power demand of existing and future locators at CFZ, known as the 230 KV Concepcion-Clark Power Transmission Project (CCPTP);

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Constitution of CCPTP.* – As approved by NEDA, TRANSCO and CDC shall undertake the implementation of the CCPTP as follows:

Phase 1

Package A

- a. Five (5) km ST/DC & 2 x 16 km SP/SC 230 KV Lines (initially energized at 69 KV);
- b. 2 x 6 km 69 KV CP/SC & 1 x 3 69 KV, CP/SC Lines;
- c. 2x 69 KV PCBs and other appurtenances at Concepcion Substation; and
- d. 69 KV ABS, 2 metering equipment at New Clark Substation and a meeting equipment for TI back-up line from existing 69 KV Clark Line 2.

Package B

- a. Load and substation at TI side consisting of 2 x 50 MVA 69/13.8 KV transformer and other appurtenances.

Phase 2

- a. 2 x 50 MVA 230/69 – 13.8 KV Power Transformer, 6 x 230 KV PCBs, 5 x 69 KV PCBs, telecommunications equipment and other appurtenances at New Clark Substation; and
- b. 2 x 230 KV PCBs and other appurtenance at Concepcion Substation;

In addition, CDC shall implement at Phase 3, which covers the constitution of a 3rd 230 KV line with corresponding 230/69 KV substation transformers, 69 KV feeders and appurtenances to serve the power requirement of other future investors in CFZ.

SECTION 2. *Responsibilities of TRANSCO and CDC.* – The respective responsibilities of TRANSCO and CDC in the implementation of the CCPTP shall be embodied in a Memorandum of Agreement, and shall contain, among others, the following;

- a. Phase 1 Package A shall be implemented and financed by TRANSCO and 50% of the cost shall be reimbursed by CDC;
- b. Phase 1 Package B shall be implemented by CDC with full technical support and financing by TRANSCO; 50% of the cost will be reimbursed by CDC and TRANSCO;
- c. Phase 2 shall be implemented by TRANSCO and total cost shall be for the account of CDC.
- d. Phase 3 shall be implemented by CDC with full technical support from TRANSCO and total cost shall be for the account of CDC.

SECTION 3. *Funding.* – TRANSCO shall advance funds for Phases 1 and 2 to meet the tight schedule committed to TI. CDC shall finance total project cost for Phase 3. DOF and DBM shall identify other sources of funds to reduce the funding requirements of be borne by TRANSCO and CDC.

SECTION 4. *Repayment Scheme.* – For advances of TRANSCO to the extent of its ownership, DBM shall reimburse TRANSCO who will, in turn, transfer ownership of the assets to CDC who will assume the repayment scheme to DBM. The fund necessary for the repayment of TRANSCO advances

to CDC shall be the extent of the latter's repayment capability as determined by DOF and the balance shall be provided by budgetary support from DBM.

SECTION 5. *Generation, Transmission and Distribution Rates to TI.* – NPC and TRANSCO shall provide discounted generation and transmission rates of US\$ 0.0491 for year 0 to year 6 and US\$ 0.0600 for year 7 to year 10 contracted with TI in its manufacturing locations (CTISEZ and BCEZ) within the Philippines in accordance with the policies, rules and regulations of these government corporations. Should the prevailing industrial retail rates decrease to a level lower than the discounted rates agreed and granted by NPC and TRANSCO, the rates shall be correspondingly decreased to match the prevailing rates. Said discounted rates shall be reported to the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC). Distribution rates of PEZA at BCEZ shall be waived for the period covered by the grant of discounted generation and transmission rates by NPC and TRANSCO.

SECTION 6. *Concessionary Lease Rates.* – CDC shall provide concessionary lease rates to TI for the duration of the lease agreement between CDC and TI, subject to existing laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 7. *TRANSCO Connection Charges.* – Where applicable, TRANSCO may collect Connection Charges as approved by the ERC from users of the CCPTP facilities.

SECTION 8. *Authority to Directly Negotiate for the TI Load-End Substation.* - In view of the urgency to deliver the power infrastructure committed by the Philippine government, and in time with the scheduled commercial operation of TI by August 2008, CDC as owner-representative and developer-operator in CTISEZ is authorized to procure the load-end substation for TI through direct negotiations, subject to existing laws, rules and regulations. TRANSCO shall provide full technical assistance in the implementation of this particular undertaking.

SECTION 9. *Role of Departments, Bureaus, Offices, Agencies, Instrumentalities of the Government.* – All heads of departments, bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the government are hereby directed to give full support and assistance to TRANSCO and CDC to expedite the implementation of the various aspects of the CCPTP. In particular, BCDA and CDC shall grant free access and free use of Right of Way in the Subic-Clark-Tarlac expressway and inside the CFZ for the CCPTP.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are deemed modified, repealed or revoked accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any part or provision of this Order shall be held unconstitutional or declared contrary to law, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 25th day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 667
EXTENDING INDEFINITELY THE EFFECTIVITY OF ANY CHARTER OR LEASE CONTRACT
PURSUANT TO PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 760, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 760, as amended, allows the temporary registration under Philippine flag of foreign-owned ships to meet the ever-increasing demand for ships to move water-borne cargoes and passengers;

WHEREAS, chartering/leasing of ships pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 760, as amended, has provided growth and development of the Philippine shipping sector as a major importance to the national economy, thereby realizing a sustainable and reliable water transport industry with safe, secure, efficient and well-maintained and well-managed ships.

WHEREAS, the existing financing schemes for the capital-intensive shipping industry remain insufficient to encourage Filipino operators to acquire ships, thus necessitating the continuation of the charter/leasing of ships pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 760, as amended;

WHEREAS, PD No. 760, as amended, provides that the effectivity of any charter or lease contract entered into pursuant to the Decree shall not be extended unless otherwise extended by the President of the Republic of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 438 issued on 15 September 1997 extended the effectivity of any charter or lease contract entered into under PD 760, as amended, provided it shall not go beyond the year 2009; unless otherwise further extended by the President of the Republic of the Philippines;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the power vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Effectivity of Any Charter or Lease Contract Pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 760, as amended. The effectivity of any charter or lease contract entered into under the said Decree is hereby extended indefinitely, unless otherwise revoked by the President of the Republic of the Philippines.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 11th day of October, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 668
ADJUSTING THE DIVIDEND RATE OF NAYONG PILIPINO FOUNDATION, INC. (NPFI)
FOR ITS 2003, 2004 AND 2005 NET EARNINGS PURSUANT TO SECTION 5 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7656

WHEREAS, Section 1 of Republic Act No. 7656 entitled “*An Act Requiring Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations to Declare Dividends Under Certain Conditions to the National Government, and for other purposes*” provides that:

“Section 1. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State that in order for the National Government to realize additional revenues, government-owned or controlled corporations, without impairing their viability and the purpose for which they have been established, shall share a substantial amount of their net earnings to the National Government.”

WHEREAS, Section 5 thereof provides that, “[i]n the interest of national economy and general welfare, the percentage of annual net earnings that shall be declared by a government-owned or controlled corporations may be adjusted by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation by the Secretary of Finance.”;

WHEREAS, to support the viability and mandate of the Nayong Pilipino Foundation, Inc. (NPFI), the liquidity and medium-term plans and programs of NPFI were considered in the determination of the reasonable dividend rates on its 2003 - 2005 net earnings;

WHEREAS, pursuant thereto, the Secretary of Finance has recommended the adjustment on the percentage of 2003 - 2005 net earnings that shall be declared by NPFI as dividend to the National Government, in the interest of national economy and general welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, do hereby order:

Section 1. The percentage of net earnings to be declared and remitted by the NPFI as dividends to the National Government as provided for under Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7656 is authorized to be adjusted to twenty-five percent (25%), or an estimated total amount of P8.50M for 2003 - 2005.

Section 2. The adjusted dividend rate provided for under Section 1 is only applicable on 2003 - 2005 net earnings of the NPFI.

Section 3. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this **11th** day of **October**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 669
**GALVANIZING SUPPORT FROM LOCAL LEADERS FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND MEDIUM
TERM PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOAL OF FEDERALISM**

WHEREAS, it is desirable to galvanize support from local leaders for the government and Medium Term Philippine Development Plan goal of federalism,

NOW THEREFORE I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

1. There is hereby formed a panel including the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, the Secretary of Justice, the Director-General of the Presidential Management Staff and the Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority, to work with the leaders of the local government units, Congress allies, and even pro-federalism opposition leaders to draft a roadmap to federalism by 2012.
2. The measures shall include: Super region planning and oversight bodies with officials and staff from the Regional Development Councils and national agencies, to draw up programs and projects up to a stipulated amount, for inclusion in the 2009 budget; legislation to affirm and expand executive issuances; and eventually charter changes.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Manila, 15 October 2007

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 670
AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 531, SERIES 2006 TO SPEED UP THE PROCESSING OF
CASES OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-GRAFT COMMISSION

WHEREAS, there is a need to demonstrate firm resolve in the anti-corruption campaign;

WHEREAS, by virtue of Executive Order No. 12 dated April 16, 2001 as amended by Executive Order No. 531 dated May 31, 2006 as well as by Executive Order No. 531-A and 531-B, the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) was created to assist the President in the campaign against graft and corruption by investigating or hearing administrative cases against all presidential appointees in the government and submitting its report or recommendation to the President;

WHEREAS, in order to speed up and streamline the investigation, hearing and resolution of cases involving presidential appointees, there is a need to give adjudicatory powers to the PAGC;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the law, do hereby order the following amendments to Executive Order No. 531, series of 2006:

SECTION 1. Section 2, paragraph (a) shall heretofore read as follows:

The Commission shall have the power, on complaint or *motu proprio* and concurrent with the Office of the Ombudsman, to investigate, receive, gather and evaluate evidence, intelligence reports and information on or hear **and decide** administrative cases against all Presidential appointees in the Executive Branch of the government and any of its agencies or instrumentalities occupying the position of Assistant Regional Director or an equivalent rank, and higher, otherwise classified as Salary Grade “26” and higher, under the Compensation and Position classification of 1989 (Republic Act No. 6758) including members of the governing board of any instrumentality, regulatory agency, chartered institution, and directors or officers, appointed or nominated by the President to government-owned or controlled corporations or corporations where the government has a minority interest, or who otherwise represent the interests of the government, hereinafter referred to as “covered Presidential appointees,” as well as other public officers and employees, and private persons, in conspiracy or connivance with covered Presidential appointees, for acts or omissions constituting violations of any of the following:

- (1) Republic Act No. 3019, as amended, otherwise known as the “Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act”;
- (2) Republic Act No. 1379 on the unlawful acquisitions of property by a public officer or employee;
- (3) Republic Act No. 6713, otherwise known as the “Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees”;
- (4) And provisions under Title Seven, Book Two of the Revised Penal Code;

-
- (5) Executive Order No. 292, series of 1987, otherwise known as the “Administrative Code of 1987”, whenever it defines and imposes administrative sanctions on acts and omissions constituting violations of the foregoing laws and issuances;
 - (6) Rules and regulations duly promulgated by competent authority to implement any of the foregoing laws and issuances; and
 - (7) Other violations as may be referred to the Commission by the President of the Philippines.

SECTION 2. Section 2, paragraph (c) shall heretofore read as follows:

The Commission shall, on complaint or *motu proprio*, have the authority to **administratively adjudicate on the merits** all cases falling within its jurisdiction upon sufficient cause. All decisions of the Commission shall be rendered en banc and shall state, among others, the factual findings, legal conclusions and the appropriate administrative penalties imposed.

Such decisions shall become final and executory unless appealed to the President by filing a Notice of Appeal with the Office of the President within thirty (30) days from receipt thereof by the respondent in accordance with the procedure set forth in Administrative Order No. 18, series of 1987.

SECTION 3. Section 2, paragraph (d) shall heretofore read as follows:

The Commission shall have the Complaints and Investigation Unit (CIU), to be headed by a lawyer appointed by the Commission, which shall investigate all complaints/cases against all covered Presidential appointees. The CIU shall keep a record of all cases filed with the Commission, monitor their status and disposition, and shall make a quarterly report to the Commission on the progress thereof. In the conduct of its investigation, the CIU Head shall designate a panel of investigators preferably composed of three (3) lawyer-members, headed by a Chairman who shall conduct hearings and render a report of their findings and recommendation to the Commission en banc. In investigating complaints on disciplinary cases, the Panel of Investigators shall observe closely pertinent provisions of the Administrative Code of 1987 (EO 292), CSC rules and regulations and other applicable related laws, and shall submit its findings and recommendations to the a Commission, through the CIU Head, within fifteen (15) days from the conclusion of the investigation.

SECTION 4. Section 2, paragraph (e) shall heretofore read as follows:

Within fifteen days from receipt of the recommendation by the CIU, the Commission en banc shall resolve or decide the case submitted before it.

SECTION 5. Section 2, paragraph (f) shall heretofore read as follows:

Upon the filing of a complaint or charge, the commission may issue an Order of Preventive Suspension against covered Presidential Appointees, when the circumstances of the investigation warrant the same, as when the charges are punishable with removal from service or when respondent’s continued stay in office would prejudice the fair determination of the case. The preventive suspension shall continue until the case is terminated by the Commission but in no case shall exceed a minimum of ninety (90) days, except when the delay in the disposition of the case is due to the fault, negligence or petition of the respondent, in which case the period of such delay shall not be counted in computing

the period of suspension. **The Order of Preventive Suspension shall take effect immediately upon receipt thereof by the respondents unless set aside or modified by the President.**

SECTION 6. Section 3 shall heretofore read as follows:

Power to Summon Government Person **and Records** and to Administer Oaths. – Pursuant to its power to investigate and adjudicate, the commission shall have the power to administer oaths and summon or subpoena government personnel and records.

SECTION 7. Section 4 shall heretofore read as follows:

Effect of Non-Compliance with Summons. – Any unreasonable delay or refusal of a public officer or employee in the Executive Branch to comply with the summons or subpoenas issued by the Commission shall constitute a ground for administrative disciplinary action **which shall be heard and adjudicated by the Commission separately from the investigation or administrative case relative to which the summons or subpoenas were issued.** The Commission en banc may, for this purpose, also file the appropriate criminal charge or complaint against erring public officer or employee before the appropriate bodies, courts or tribunals.

SECTION 8. Section 6 shall heretofore read as follows:

Disclosures. – The commission and its personnel shall not disclose or make public any record or information in connection with any investigation **pending its decision** thereon and when such disclosures would deprive the respondent of his/her right to fair and impartial disposition of the case. Only the chairperson may disclose any information to the public provided that any such disclosure shall be balanced, fair and accurate.

SECTION 9. Section 7 shall heretofore read as follows:

Transitory Provision. – Upon effectivity of this Executive Order, all cases involving Presidential Appointee or otherwise within the jurisdiction of the commission which are pending before the Office of the President shall be immediately remanded to the Commission for appropriate disposition by the Commission in accordance with the provisions thereof.

SECTION 10. Section 2, paragraphs (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), shall heretofore be renumbered as paragraphs (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l) and (m), respectively.

Sections 7, 8, and 9, shall heretofore be renumbered as Sections 9, 10 and 11, respectively.

SECTION 12. Repealing Clause. – All orders, rules and regulations and issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified, accordingly.

SECTION 13. – Effectivity. - This Executive Order shall take effect immediately after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila this **22nd** of October, 2007.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO R. BUNYE**

Acting Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 670-A
AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 670, SERIES OF 2007 TO DELINEATE THE
ADJUDICATORY POWERS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-GRAFT COMMISSION

WHEREAS, to fairly expedite the disposition and resolution of cases under investigation by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, there is a need to delineate the adjudicatory powers in it vested under Executive Order No. 670, Series of 2007.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL- ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the law, do hereby order the following amendment to Executive Order No. 670, Series of 2007:

SECTION 1. Section 2, paragraph (c) shall heretofore read as follows:

The Commission, in behalf of the Office of the President, shall have the authority to conduct proceedings on all cases falling within its jurisdiction upon sufficient cause. All decisions of the Commission shall be rendered en banc and shall state, among others, the factual findings, legal conclusions and the appropriate administrative penalties imposed.

Such decisions shall be submitted to the President for appropriate action.

SECTION 2. All orders, rules and regulations and issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, Philippines, this 23rd day of April, 2008.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 671

DESIGNATING APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO BE THE ACCREDITING ENTITIES THAT WILL CERTIFY AND ACCREDIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION AS DONEE-INSTITUTIONS RELATIVE TO THE DEDUCTIBILITY OF CONTRIBUTIONS OR GIFTS RECEIVED BY THEM, IN RELATION TO SECTION 34 OF THE TAX REFORM ACT OF 1997

WHEREAS, there is a need to strengthen the regulatory functions of government agencies over non-stock non-profit corporations, associations and non-government organizations which fall under its respective mandate;

WHEREAS, there is a need to rationalize fiscal incentives given to individuals, corporations and organizations as part of the government's fiscal reform;

WHEREAS, Section 34 (H) of the Tax Reform Act of 1997 provides for the deductibility of contributions or gifts made to donee institutions;

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Finance is required to promulgate and publish the necessary Rules and Regulations for the effective implementation of the Act;

WHEREAS, on December 8, 1998, the Department of Finance promulgated Revenue Regulation 13-98 implementing Section 34 (H) of the Act;

WHEREAS, the Department of Finance entered into a Memorandum of Agreement designating the Philippine Council for NGO Certification, Inc. a non-stock, non-profit corporation as Accrediting Entity for donee institutions;

WHEREAS, the designation of function to Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC), which is a private body, may amount to an undue delegation of power;

WHEREAS, the President shall have control over all executive departments, bureaus and offices and shall ensure that the laws be faithfully executed;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution do hereby order and direct the following:

Section 1. Accrediting Entity - The following Departments are hereby designated Accrediting Entities to determine the qualification of non-stock, non-profit corporations, non-governmental organizations, associations, and foundations for accreditation as qualified donee-institutions to wit:

- a. Department of Social Welfare and Development for charitable and/or social welfare organizations, foundations and associations including but not limited to those engaged in youth, child, women, family, disabled persons, older persons welfare and development;
- b. Department of Science and Technology – for organizations, associations and foundation primarily engaged in research and other Scientific activities
- c. Philippine Sports Commission - for organizations, foundations and associations primarily engaged in sports development
- d. National Council for Culture and Arts- for organizations, foundations and associations primarily engaged in cultural activities

- e. Commission on Higher Education – for organizations, foundations and association primarily engaged in educational activities

Section 2. The Accrediting Entities shall comply with the Standards and Guidelines set by the Department of Finance relative to accreditation of non-stock, non-profit corporations/NGOs as provided for in Revenue Regulation No. 13-98.

Section 3. Repeal - All executive and administrative issuances inconsistent with the provisions of the Order are hereby deemed repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 4. Separability – If any portion of this Order is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions of this Order shall not be affected by this Order.

Section 5. Effectivity – This order shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Done on the City of Manila, this **22nd** day of October, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO R. BUNYE**

Acting Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 672

**DEFINING AND CLARIFYING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) AND PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION
AUTHORITY (PRA) IN THE APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RECLAMATION
PROJECTS NATIONWIDE**

WHEREAS, under Presidential Decree No. 3-A of January 11, 1973, the reclamation of areas under water, whether foreshore or inland, shall be limited to the National Government or any person authorized by it under a proper contract, notwithstanding the provisions of any law to the contrary;

WHEREAS, on February 4, 1977, the Public Estates Authority (PEA) was created to reclaim land, including foreshore and submerged areas, by dredging, filling or other means, to acquire reclaimed land;

WHEREAS, on February 14, 1979, Executive Order No. 525 was issued directing the PEA to be primarily responsible for integrating, directing and coordinating all reclamation projects for and on behalf of the National Government; that all reclamation projects shall be approved by the President upon the recommendation of the PEA, and shall be undertaken by the PEA or through a proper contract executed by it with any person or entity; provided that reclamation projects of any National Government agency or entity authorized under its Charter shall be undertaken in consultation with the PEA upon approval of the President;

WHEREAS, the PEA has been renamed as the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) by virtue of Executive Order No. 380-A dated April 3, 2006;

WHEREAS, the above-mentioned power of the President to approve all reclamation projects has been delegated to PRA (PEA) under Executive Order No. 543 dated June 24, 2006;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the above-mentioned mandate of PRA under existing laws and Executive Order No. 543, the PRA (PEA) issued on January 31, 2007, Administrative Order No. 2007-2 providing the rules and regulations in the approval and implementation of reclamation projects;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title XIV, Sec. 2 of the 1987 Administrative Code, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall, subject to law and higher authority, be in charge of carrying out the State's constitutional mandate to control and supervise the exploration, development, utilization and conservation of the country's natural resources;

WHEREAS, under Sec. 4, Chapter I, Title XIV of the 1987 Administrative Code, one of the powers and functions of DENR is to exercise exclusive jurisdiction on the management and disposition of all lands of the public domain and serve as the sole agency responsible for classification, sub-classification, surveying and titling of lands in consultation with appropriate agencies;

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2007, the DENR issued DENR Administrative Order (AO) No. 2007-20 providing the Rules and Regulations Governing the Issuance of Permit Over Reclamation Projects And Special Patents Over Reclaimed Lands;

WHEREAS, the said DENR AO No. 2007-20 caused confusion among the applicants for the reclamation projects as it conveys the impression that the DENR is the regulatory agency for the reclamation projects since it requires the reclamation proponents to secure permit to reclaim from DENR which permit shall only be valid for a period of one (1) year;

WHEREAS, to eliminate any confusion and to avoid conflict between the PRA (PEA) and DENR and among the stakeholders and target clientele and to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the approval and implementation of reclamation projects under the concept of sustainable development, there is a need to delineate and define the roles and responsibilities of PRA (PEA) and DENR with respect to reclamation projects nationwide;

WHEREAS, the President of the Philippines, under the 1987 Administrative Code is the Chief Executive of the National Government vested with the power and authority to implement changes within the executive branch to realize any national goals and objectives, policies and regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order as follows:

Section 1. In accordance with Presidential Decree No. 1084 (PD 1084) as amended by Executive Order No. 525 (EO 525) dated February 14, 1979 and Executive Order No. 543 (EO 543) of June 24, 2006, it is hereby reiterated that the PRA (PEA) shall approve all reclamation projects on behalf of the President subject to compliance with existing laws and rules.

Section 2. Prior to approval of any reclamation project, the PRA (PEA) is hereby directed to coordinate and secure from DENR a permit authorizing/clearing a particular area to be the site of the proposed reclamation project, otherwise known as the area permit or site clearance.

Section 3. Prior to the implementation of the duly approved reclamation projects, the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) shall be secured from DENR and that no reclamation works shall commence without the required ECC.

Section 4. The PRA shall closely monitor and supervise the implementation of the reclamation projects while the DENR shall monitor and enforce strict compliance with the terms and conditions of ECC for the reclamation project.

Section 5. Upon completion of the reclamation project, the PRA and DENR shall undertake the survey of the completed reclaimed land in accordance with DENR rules and regulations and thereafter upon request and/or clearance from PRA (PEA), the DENR shall indorse to the President of the Philippines, the issuance of proclamation declaring some portions of reclaimed land to be alienable or disposable and retaining some portions thereof for public use and public service.

Section 6. Immediately after issuance of the proclamation, the DENR and/or Land Registration Authority (LRA) shall issue Special Patent and subsequently Original Certificate of Title. The portions of reclaimed land to be devoted to public use and public service shall be titled in the name of the Republic of the Philippines while reclaimed land which has been proclaimed as alienable and disposable shall be issued title originally in the name of the PRA (PEA) which is hereby authorized to transfer titles for a consideration or otherwise, to qualified persons, natural or juridical, who may own reclaimed lands pursuant to the 1987 Constitution and subject to all existing laws, rules and regulations.

Section 7. All executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 8. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **19th** day of **October**, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 673
AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 340, SERIES OF 2004, TO PROVIDE FOR THE
COMPENSATION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBIC BAY
METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY (SBMA)

WHEREAS, *Executive Order No. 340 series of 2004*, reorganized the Board of Directors of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and defined the powers, functions and duties of the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the SBMA Administrator;

WHEREAS, in view of the multifarious requirements, functions, duties and responsibilities of the of the Administrator of the SBMA, *Executive Order No. 340, series of 2004*, reorganized the SBMA Board and provided for the position of Chairman of the SBMA Board separate and distinct from that of the Administrator;

WHEREAS, while *Executive Order No. 340 series of 2004* defined and provided for the position of the Chairman of the SBMA Board separate and distinct from that of the Administrator, the aforementioned Order did not provide for the compensation of the Chairman;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order:

SECTION 1-Section 1 of *Executive Order, series of 2004* shall heretofore read as follows:

“The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority [SBMA] shall be appointed by the President while the SBMA Administrator shall serve as *ex-officio* Vice-Chairman of the SBMA Board.

The compensation of the SBMA Chairman as head of agency shall be the same as that of the Administrator.”

SECTION 2-This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

City of Manila, 30 October 2007

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 674
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE FILM EXPORT SERVICES OFFICE

WHEREAS, it is government policy to maximize the country's comparative advantage as a location site for international movie and television making to generate income, promote tourism, and enhance the image of the country abroad;

WHEREAS, enhancing linkages and collaboration with foreign film producers and film bodies will also facilitate the promotion of locally produced films in global festivals and markets; and

WHEREAS, to encourage foreign movie and television makers to produce their films in the country, it is expedient to integrate, simplify and streamline the requirements for foreign producers interested in doing location shooting in the country.

NOW THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Creation of a Philippine Film Export Services Office. There is hereby created a Philippine Film Export Services Office (hereinafter referred to as the "Office"), under the Film Development Council of the Philippines (hereinafter referred to as the "FDCP"). The Office shall be under the administrative and technical supervision of the FDCP. It shall be composed of the Executive Director of the Office, and representatives from the following agencies:

1. Department of Tourism
2. Department of Trade and Industry
3. Department of Interior and Local Government
4. Department of National Defense
5. Bureau of Customs
6. Bureau of Internal Revenue
7. Bureau of Immigration
8. Cinema Evaluation Board
9. Film Academy of the Philippines
10. Private sector representatives, one each from the movie and television industries

Section 2. Functions. The Philippine Film Export Services Office shall facilitate the institutionalization of a One-Stop-Shop System for Foreign Film/Television Production. It shall also undertake the following:

1. Facilitate the promotion and marketing of the Philippines as location site for the production of international films and television programs;
2. Formulate and recommend an incentive package for foreign film/television companies interested in shooting films/television programs in the country;

3. Assist foreign film companies in processing pertinent documents and various requirements relative to the production of international films/television programs in the country;
4. Coordinate with various government agencies in assisting the entry and exit of foreign film/television producers, artists and production crew;
5. Provide direct link between foreign production companies, producers, filmmakers and artists with local production manpower services, local artists, bit players and technical crew and facilities;
6. Utilize the services of tourism attaches abroad, through the Department of Tourism, in the promotion and marketing of Philippine locations sites/resources and local film production manpower;
7. Perform such other functions as may be authorized by the FDCP Chairperson.

Section 3. Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Director. The Executive Director of the Office shall be the head of the Secretariat. He shall exercise the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Direct and supervise the operations of the Office;
2. Recommend the appointment of the administrative and subordinate personnel; and
3. Facilitate the preparation of the annual and supplemental budget of the Office.

Section 4. Annual Report. The Office shall, within three months after the end of every fiscal year, submit its annual report to the President, through the FDCP.

Section 5. Initial Fund. To carry out the provisions of this Executive Order, the release of the initial sum not exceeding **TEN MILLION PESOS (10,000,000.00)** is hereby authorized chargeable against the FDCP Special Fund accrued from amusement tax rewards, under Republic Act No. 9167. Thereafter, the budget of the Office shall be integrated in the annual budget of the FDCP.

Section 6. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila this **30th** day of **October**, in the year of Our Lord, **2007**.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**
President of the Republic of the Philippines

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 674-A
AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 674 CREATING THE PHILIPPINE
FILM EXPORT SERVICES OFFICES

WHEREAS, the Philippine Film Export Services Office (PFESO) is mandated to maximize the country's comparative advantage as a location site for international movie and television program productions to generate income, promote tourism, and enhance the image of the country abroad;

WHEREAS, the assistance of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is vital to the operation of the PFESO;

WHEREAS, both the DFA and the PFESO share the objective of presenting the best image of the Philippines to the world;

WHEREAS, the processing of each request of a foreign motion picture or television company that wishes to film in the Philippines begins with an application for the necessary visa from the nearest Philippine Embassy or Consulate of the DFA;

WHEREAS, the success of the PFESO will lead to better relations with the different countries whose production companies will come to the Philippines;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Executive Order No. 674 dated October 30, 2007, is hereby amended to include the Department of Foreign Affairs as one of the members of the Philippine Film Export Services Office.

SECTION 2. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 15th day of June, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2009). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 675

AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 97-A DATED JUNE 19, 1993 BY EXTENDING THE SECURED AREA ENJOYING THE TAX AND DUTY FREE PRIVILEGES TO THE SUBIC SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND FREE PORT ZONE AS DEFINED BY PROCLAMATION NO. 532 DATED FEBRUARY 1, 1995

WHEREAS, Republic Act (RA) No. 7227, otherwise known as the Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992, accelerated the conversion of military reservations into other productive uses and, created, the Bases and Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), among others;

WHEREAS, Section 12 of RA 7227 created the Special Economic and Free-port Zone consisting of the City of Olongapo and the Municipality of Subic, Province of Zambales, the lands occupied by the Subic Naval Base and its contiguous extensions as embraced, covered, and defined by the 1947 Military Bases Agreement between the Philippines and the United States of America as amended, and within the Municipalities of Morong and Hermosa, Province of Bataan, referred to as the Subic Special Economic Zone (SSEZ), subject to the concurrence by resolution of the Sangguniang Panglungsod of the City of Olongapo and the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipalities of Subic, Morong and Hermosa;

WHEREAS, Section 12 of RA 7227 further provides that each local government unit shall submit, within thirty (30) days after the approval thereof, their resolution of concurrence to join the SSEZ to the Office of the President, who shall issue a Proclamation defining its metes and bounds;

WHEREAS, Subsection (b), Section 12 of RA 7227 provides as a policy that the SSEZ shall be operated and managed as a separate customs territory ensuring free flow or movement of goods and capital within, into and exported out of the SSEZ, as well as provide incentives such as tax and duty-free importations of raw materials, capital and equipment, subject to the condition that exportation or removal of goods from the territory of the SSEZ to the other parts of the Philippine territory shall be subject to customs duties and taxes under the Customs and Tariff Code and other relevant tax laws of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 97-A dated June 19, 1993 limited the coverage of the completely tax and duty-free area in the Subic Special Economic and Free Port Zone (SSEFPZ) within the “Secured Area” only, consisting of the presently fenced-in former Subic Naval Base;

WHEREAS, Proclamation No. 532 dated February 1, 1995 defined the metes and bounds of the SSEFPZ, the total land and water area of which consists of 67,452 hectares, more or less;

WHEREAS, the “Secured Area” of the SSEFPZ has grown as it was so envisioned, becoming the hub and principal place of business of various local and foreign investors;

WHEREAS, there has been a shortage of areas for lease to investors who intend to avail of the tax and duty-free incentives under the act as the grant of these tax and duty-free incentives has been confined only within the “Secured Area” by EO 97-A, Series of 1993;

WHEREAS, extending the area of coverage of the tax and duty-free privileges beyond the “Secured Area” but within the SSEFPZ will entice more local and foreign investors to set up businesses within the SSEFPZ.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Section 1 of Executive Order No. 97-A dated 19 June 1993 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 1. The following guidelines shall govern the tax and duty-free privilege within the Subic Special Economic and Freeport Zone (SSEFPZ):

- 1.1 The tax and duty-free privilege within the SSEFPZ shall apply within the current Secured Area consisting of the presently fenced-in former Subic Naval Base and such other areas, that may be identified, fenced, secured or declared as additional Secured Areas by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) within the SSEFPZ as defined under Proclamation No. 532 dated February 1, 1995. The SBMA and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) shall jointly formulate and implement measures to prevent the smuggling of goods from the Secured Areas into the Customs Territory. Business enterprises and individuals (Filipinos and foreigners) residing within the secured Areas and in the other areas under Clause 1.1 hereof, are free to import raw materials, capital goods, equipment, and consumer items tax and duty-free. Consumption items, however, must be consumed within the secured Areas and, in the areas defined in Clause 1.1 hereof. Removal of raw materials, capital goods, equipment and consumer items out of the secured Areas for sale to non-SSEFPZ registered enterprises shall be subject to the usual taxes and duties, except as provided under Clause 1.4 hereof.*
- 1.2 Residents of the SSEFPZ living outside the Secured Areas can enter the Secured Areas and consume any quantity of consumption items in hotels and restaurants within the Secured Areas.*
- 1.3 Filipinos not residing within the SSEFPZ can enter the secured Areas and consume any quantity of consumption items in hotels and restaurants within the Secured Areas.*
- 1.4 Foreign tourists, balikbayans and returning residents (from abroad) passing through the Secured Areas shall be entitled to the same prevailing tax and duty-free privileges they presently enjoy.*
- 1.5 The sale of tax and duty-free consumer items in the Secured Areas shall only be allowed in duly authorized duty-free shops. Duty-free shops shall be the subject to the joint regulation of the BOC and the SBMA to insure proper accounting of imports and sales.*
- 1.6 A control system shall be set up by duty-free shop operators at their own expense. This system shall be approved by the SBMA and Customs authorities before any duty-free outlet is permitted to operate.*
- 1.7 The SBMA shall install a computerized identification system to insure compliance with the guidelines governing the SSEFPZ, particularly the secured areas and the areas under Clause 1.1 hereof. Customs authorities together with SBMA personnel, shall man the entry/exit gates of the Secured Areas and such other areas under Clause 1.1 hereof.”*

Section 2. The BOC and the SBMA shall jointly promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this Executive Order.

Section 3. All executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 4. This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **5th** day of **November**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 676

**TRANSFERRING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF DISABLED PERSONS
(NCWDP) FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD)
TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

WHEREAS, the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP) is the national government agency mandated to formulate policies and coordinate the activities of all agencies, whether public or private, concerning disability issues and concerns. As such, the NCWDP is the lead agency tasked to steer the course of program development for persons with disabilities and the delivery of services to the sector;

WHEREAS, through the recommendation of Philippine non-government organizations (NGOs) concerned with intellectual disabilities, the Office of the President recognizes that there is a need to further strengthen the government programs for the welfare of disabled Filipinos;

WHEREAS, in order to closely monitor and oversee the efficient and effective implementation of the Government's commitment in the special programs for persons with intellectual disabilities, there is a need to transfer the NCWDP from the DSWD to the Office of the President;

WHEREAS, under Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of the Administrative Code of 1987, the President has the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law and the Constitution, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Transfer.* - The National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP) is hereby transferred from the Department of Social Welfare and Development to the Office of the President.

SECTION 2. *Appointments.* A representative from the private sector shall be designated as chair of the NCWDP.

SECTION 3. *Oversight.* The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development shall continue to oversee the NCWDP in behalf of the President of the Philippines.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* - All executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity.* - This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

City of Manila, October 25, 2007

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **HON. EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 677

MODIFYING THE RATES OF DUTY ON CERTAIN IMPORTED ARTICLES AS PROVIDED UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF RATES ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS UNDER THE ASEAN INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION (AICO) SCHEME, IN FAVOR OF TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES CORPORATION; TOYOTA AUTOPARTS PHILIPPINES, INC.
(COE NOS. TOYOTA /2006/35 AND TOYOTA/2006/36)

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a Contracting Party to the Basic Agreement on the ASEAN Industrial Cooperation Scheme (AICO) signed in Singapore on 27 April 1996;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory to the Protocol amending the Basic Agreement on the AICO Scheme signed in Singapore on 21 April 2004;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a participating country in the approved AICO Arrangements of Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation; Toyota Autoparts Philippines, Inc along with Indonesia;

WHEREAS, under the Toyota AICO Certificate of Eligibility No. Toyota/2006/35, the Philippines (Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation) will import from Indonesia (PT. Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indonesia) certain original equipment manufacture (OEM) automotive parts/components for Camry and Corolla. In exchange, Indonesia (PT. Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indonesia) will import from the Philippines complementary parts/ components for the OEM of Kijang Innova;

WHEREAS, under the Toyota AICO Certificate of Eligibility No. Toyota/2006/36, the Philippines (Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation; Toyota Autoparts Philippines, Inc.) will import from Indonesia (PT. Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indonesia) certain original equipment manufacture (OEM) automotive parts/ components for Innova Multi-Purpose Vehicle (Innova). In exchange, Indonesia (PT. Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indonesia) will import from the Philippines complementary parts/ components for the OEM of Kijang Innova;

WHEREAS, AICO Certificate of Eligibility No. Toyota/2006/35 and Toyota/2006/36 were issued on 01 December 2006 and were later amended on 08 January 2007 and 03 January 2007 respectively, in favor of the participating companies in the Toyota AICO arrangements;

WHEREAS, in consonance with Articles 5 and 7 of the Basic Agreement of the AICO Scheme, as amended, participating companies in the approved Toyota AICO Arrangements shall qualify for 0% preferential tariff rates to be extended by Indonesia and the Philippines as participating countries.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Philippines, pursuant to the powers vested in me under Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The articles specifically listed in Annex “A” hereof, as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be accorded the AICO rate of 0% on parts/ components as specified in Column 6 thereof.

SECTION 2. The AICO rate provided in Annex “A” shall be accorded to the AICO entity in Indonesia (PT. Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indonesia) upon the effectivity of this Executive Order;

SECTION 3. Upon the effectivity of this Executive Order, the articles specifically listed in the aforesaid Annex “A” which are entered or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption shall pay the applicable AICO preferential tariff rates specified under Section 1 hereof, subject to qualification under the Rules of Origin for the CEPT, as evidenced by the Certificate of Origin-Form “D”.

SECTION 4. All presidential issuances, administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 31st day of October, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Reference: Annex A

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 678
MODIFYING THE RATES OF IMPORT DUTY ON CERTAIN ARTICLES
UNDER SECTION 104 OF THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978
(PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1464), AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the government to promote the development of sustainable, prosperous and internationally competitive domestic industries;

WHEREAS, certain manufacturing industries would gain greater competitiveness from a reduction in the cost of their imported inputs;

WHEREAS, Section 401 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978 (Presidential Decree No. 1464), as amended, empowers the President of the Republic of the Philippines to increase, reduce, or remove existing rates of import duty, as well as to modify the form of duty and the tariff nomenclature under Section 104 of said Code;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The articles specifically listed in Annex “A” hereof, as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be subject to the Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) rate of import duty in accordance with the schedule indicated opposite each article.

SECTION 2. The nomenclature and rates of import duty on tariff headings not enumerated and those listed but represented by the symbol “x x x” shall remain in force and in effect.

SECTION 3. Upon the effectivity of this Executive Order, the articles specifically listed in Annex “A” which are entered and withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption shall be levied the MFN rates of duty therein prescribed.

SECTION 4. All presidential issuances, administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. This Executive Order shall take effect thirty (30) days after its complete publication in a national newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 31st day of October, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Reference: Annex “A”

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 679

MODIFYING THE RATES OF DUTY ON CERTAIN IMPORTED ARTICLES AS PROVIDED UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF RATES ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS UNDER THE ASEAN INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION (AICO) SCHEME, IN FAVOR OF HONDA CARS PHILIPPINES, INC. (COE NO. HONDA/200748).

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a Contracting Party to the Basic Agreement on the ASEAN Industrial Cooperation Scheme (AICO) signed in Singapore on 27 April 1996;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory to the Protocol amending the Basic Agreement on the AICO Scheme signed in Singapore on 21 April 2004;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a participating country in the approved AICO Arrangements of Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. along with Thailand;

WHEREAS, under the Honda AICO Certificate of Eligibility No. Honda/2007/48, the Philippines (Honda Cars Philippines, Inc.) will import from Thailand (Honda Automobile (Thailand) Co., Ltd) certain original equipment manufacture (OEM) automotive parts/components for Honda Civic. In exchange, Thailand (Honda Automobile (Thailand) Co., Ltd.) will import from the Philippines complementary parts/components for the OEM of Honda Civic and CR-V;

WHEREAS, AICO Certificate of Eligibility No. Honda /2007/48 was issued on 20 March 2007, in favor of the participating companies in the Honda AICO arrangement;

WHEREAS, in consonance with Articles 5 and 7 of the Basic Agreement of the AICO Scheme, as amended participating companies in the approved Honda AICO Arrangements shall qualify for 0% preferential tariff rate to be extended by Thailand and the Philippines as participating countries.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Philippines, pursuant to the powers vested in me under Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The articles specifically listed in Annex “A” hereof, as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be accorded the AICO rate of 0% on parts/components of Honda Civic as specified in Column 7 thereof.

SECTION 2. The AICO rate provided in Annex “A” shall be accorded to the AICO entity in Thailand (Honda Automobile (Thailand) Co. Ltd.) upon the effectivity of this Executive Order;

SECTION 3. Upon the effectivity of this Executive Order, the articles specifically listed in the aforesaid Annex “A” which are entered or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption shall be subject to the applicable AICO preferential tariff rates specified under Section 1 hereof, subject to qualification under the Rules of Origin for the CEPT, as evidence by the Certificate of Origin - Form “D”;

SECTION 4. All presidential issuances, administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly; and

SECTION 5. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 31st day of October, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Reference: Annex "A"

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 680
AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 140, SERIES OF 1993

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 46 dated September 4, 1986 granted authority to the Ministry of Tourism (now Department of Tourism or DOT) through the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA) to establish and operate a duty and tax free merchandising system in the Philippines, and mandated in Section 3 thereof that all net profits from merchandising operations conducted pursuant thereto shall accrue to the Ministry of Tourism (now DOT), which shall allocate the same in accordance with existing policies and regulations;

WHEREAS, EO No. 140 dated November 30, 1993 rationalized the Duty Free Stores/Outlets and other operations in the country, and specifically provided in Section 4 thereof that the Duty Free Philippines (DFP) shall remit to the National Government an amount equivalent to 1.5 percent of its net sales;

WHEREAS, the remittance required from DFP by EO No. 140, series of 1993, is an additional burden to DFP in view of the fact that all of its net profits are already being remitted to the DOT pursuant to EO No. 46, series of 1986;

WHEREAS, the DFP remittances to the DOT are used exclusively to finance vital government projects in the tourism sector, as well as to augment service facilities for tourists;

WHEREAS, amending EO No. 140, series of 1993, by deleting Section 4 thereof would relieve DFP of its additional burden, as the remittance to DOT is tantamount to a remittance to the national government as well.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby amend Executive Order No. 140, dated November 30, 1993, by deleting Section 4 thereof.

All executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 19th day of November, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 681
MERGING THE LIVELIHOOD CORPORATION (LIVECOR) AND THE NATIONAL
LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT FUND (NLSF)

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Settlements was created under Presidential Decree No. 1396 dated June 2, 1978;

WHEREAS, the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) was created under Executive Order No. (EO) 715 dated September 29, 1981 as a priority program of the government;

WHEREAS, the KKK was conceived to be the nationwide movement to mobilize the local resources for the establishment of viable productive enterprises that would provide sources of livelihood within the community;

WHEREAS, under Letter of Instructions No. (LOI) 1161, the KKK was given national budgetary resources totaling one billion pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) initially set aside to fund the livelihood projects;

WHEREAS, the KKK Processing Center Authority, later renamed Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR) was created under EO 866 dated January 11, 1983 to implement the establishment, operation, maintenance and expansion of self-reliant and economically viable agro-industrial processing areas in various region of the Philippines under the KKK;

WHEREAS, the LIVECOR Authority was governed by a Board of Trustees with the Minister of Human Settlements as Chairman;

WHEREAS, the LIVECOR had a capitalization of one billion pesos (P1,000,000,000.00);

WHEREAS, under LOI 144 dated September 22, 1983, the KKK National Secretariat was tasked to oversee the operations and administration of the Fund within the guidelines set forth therein;

WHEREAS, under EO 85 dated December 12, 1986, the Ministry of Human Settlements was abolished;

WHEREAS, LIVECOR was attached to the Presidential Management Staff by virtue of Executive Order No. 130, after the Ministry of Human Settlements was abolished in 1986;

WHEREAS, under EO No. 238 dated July 22, 1987, the KKK/National Livelihood Support Fund (NLSF) capital and earnings were placed under the control and supervision of the Office of the President which shall be exclusively utilized for the promotion, generation and development of livelihood opportunities;

WHEREAS, under Memorandum Order (MO) 71 dated February 18, 1987, the payment of separation benefits to officials and employees of the Ministry of Human Settlements and other agencies abolished under EO 85 was ordered;

WHEREAS, under MO 85 dated April 30, 1987, the head of the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) was ordered to oversee the orderly abolition of the Ministry of Human Settlements to include the administration of separation benefits to those who will be separated from the service;

WHEREAS, under EO 327 dated June 9, 1988, the Bagong KKK (BKKK) Secretariat was created to (i) implement the objectives and thrusts of the BKKK; (ii) carry out the consolidation of all KKK/NLSF capital funds and the collection of unpaid loans; and (iii) conceptualize, evaluate, market and

monitor BKKK as a Fund and its role in the delivery of livelihood opportunities and services to the disadvantaged sectors of the society;

WHEREAS, under Section 37 of the Republic Act (RA) No. 6657, otherwise known as “An act Instituting Agrarian Reform Program to Promote Justice and Industrialization, Providing the Mechanism for its Implementation and for Other Purposes”, the BKKK Secretariat was transferred and attached to the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) for its supervision including all its applicable and existing funds, personnel, properties, equipment and records;

WHEREAS, under Administrative Order (AO) No. 75 dated August 6, 1993, the BKKK Secretariat, including the BKKK Capital Fund/NLSF was directed to be transferred and attached to the LBP in accordance with Section 37 of RA 6657 and shall be supervised through an Executive Committee led by the President of the LBP as its Chairman;

WHEREAS, under EO 21 dated August 27, 1998, the LIVECOR was attached to the Office of the Executive Secretary;

WHEREAS, under EO 75 dated February 19, 1999, the BKKK Secretariat was abolished and a Management Committee was created in its place, led by the President of the LBP as Chairman and the Executive Director of the NLSF as Vice-Chairman. The newly created Management Committee was formed as the policy making body through which the LBP shall exercise supervision over the Fund;

WHEREAS, while the Management Committee of the NLSF created under EO 75 is endowed with certain specific corporate powers, it lacks a formal creation into a corporation with separate and distinct corporate personality;

WHEREAS, under EO 233 dated April 26, 2000, the attachment of LIVECOR and all its subsidiaries was transferred to the Department of Agriculture;

WHEREAS, to be able to professionalize the handling and management of the Fund and for the efficient collection of the previous loans granted under the KKK and LIVECOR, there is a need to formalize the creation of the NLSF Management Committee by providing it with a corporate personality;

WHEREAS, the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) discourages the creation of new government corporations;

WHEREAS, LIVECOR is no longer self-reliant and economically viable;

WHEREAS, Section 31, Title III, Book III of the 1987 Administrative Code vests in the President the continuing authority to reorganize the Office of the President;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Merger of NLSF and LIVECOR. – NLSF and LIVECOR shall be merged into a non-stock, non-profit, body corporate to be known as Livecor. The new Livecor shall be transferred and attached to the LBP pursuant to the mandate NLSF under R.A. 6657. As such, the NLSF employees and personnel who are absorbed by the new Livecor shall be accorded the same benefits, privileges and other entitlements similarly received by the LBP employees and officers subject to certain conditions imposed by the new Livecor Board.

SECTION 2. Mandate. – The new Livecor shall undertake the promotion, generation and development of livelihood and community based enterprises primarily in agri-business, including those in the Agrarian Reform Communities, that will cater to the low-income bracket. It shall take charge of developing and administering livelihood programs using the NLSF funds.

SECTION 3. *Additional Capital.* – The new Livecor shall be infused with additional capital of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) that shall be sourced from the accumulated earnings of NLSF.

SECTION 4. *Functions and Composition of the Board of Directors of the new Livecor.* The Board of Directors of the new Livecor shall be the policy-making body composed of the following:

- a. The Secretary of Agriculture or his designee as ex-officio Chairman;
- b. Executive Director of the NLSF Secretariat as the ex-officio Vice-Chairman;
- c. Nominee of President of the Philippines as Member;
- d. Nominee of the Department of Agrarian Reform, approved by the President of the Philippines as Member, as Member;
- e. Nominee of the LBP, approved by the President of the Philippines, as Member;
- f. Representative from the Labor Sector, appointed by the President of the Philippines, as Member;
- g. Nominee of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, approved by the President of the Philippines, as Member.

The term of the Members of the Board of Directors of the new Livecor shall be one (1) year, and they shall serve in a hold-over capacity until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

SECTION 5. *Officers of the new Livecor.* – The President of the new Livecor shall be the Executive Director of the present NLSF Secretariat. The Vice-President, Corporate Treasurer, the Corporate Secretary and other officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors in a meeting called for that purpose and approved by the President of the Philippines.

SECTION 6. *Transfer.* – The administration and management of the NLSF shall be transferred from the NLSF Management Committee to the new Livecor Board of Directors for administration, management and development purposes.

All powers, functions, rights and duties previously exercised by the NLSF Management Committee relating to the administration, management and development of NLSF's programs, assets, liabilities and records shall be transferred to and exercised by the new Livecor Board of Directors.

SECTION 7. *Transfer Committee.* – A Transfer Committee composed of the Secretary of Agriculture or his designee, the Executive Director of the NLSF Secretariat, a representative each from the Office of the President, Department of Agrarian Reform and Land Bank of the Philippines, shall prepare the necessary plans and measures to effect the transfer of all programs, assets, liabilities and records of the NLSF for the management, administration and development of the new Livecor within thirty (30) days from the issuance of this Executive Order.

The NLSF Secretariat, the new Livecor and the Transfer Committee shall jointly submit a report to the Presidential Management Staff on all actions taken to implement the provisions of this Executive Order within thirty (30) days after the new Livecor shall have been re-organized;

SECTION 8. *Personnel.* – To ensure the continued implementation and management of the NLSF during the period of transfer and transition, the NLSF personnel who are performing the functions transferred to the new Livecor shall be absorbed and shall continue to perform such duties under the management of the new Livecor; provided, that those personnel, at their option, may retire or be separated from the service from the NLSF, and shall be entitled to the benefits provided by law at the time of retirement or separation. The same option shall be made available to the Livecor personnel.

SECTION 9. *Operation Expenses.* – The operating expenses of the new Livecor shall be charged against the income generated by the NLSF and the liquidation of the assets of Livecor.

SECTION 10. *Existing Policies and Rules.* – Existing policies, guidelines, rules and regulations with respect to the functions of the NLSF which have been transferred to the new Livecor shall continue in effect until amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All executive issuances, guidelines, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

City of Manila, 22 November 2007

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). [*Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 681-A
AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 681
DATED 22 NOVEMBER 2007

I, **GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the law, do hereby order:

With reference to Executive Order 681 dated 22 November 2007 directing “the merger of the Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR) and the National Livelihood Support Fund (NLSF)”, certain provisions are hereby amended and promulgated as follows:

SECTION 1. *Section 1, Merger of the NLSF and Livecor*, to state the name of the merged NLSF and Livecor as the “National Livelihood Development Corporation (NLDC)”.

SECTION 2. *Section 4, Functions and Composition of the Board of Trustees*, to read as follows:

SECTION 4. Functions and Composition of the Board of Trustees of the NLDC. The Board of Directors of the National Livelihood Development Corporation shall be the policy-making body composed of the following:

- a. President of the Land Bank of the Philippines as ex-officio Chairman
- b. Executive Director of the NLSF Secretariat as the ex-officio Vice-Chairman
- c. Representative from the Office of the President of the Philippines as member
- d. Nominee of the Department of Agriculture, approved by the President of the Philippines as Member
- e. Nominee of the Department of Agrarian Reform, approved by the President of the Philippines as Member
- f. Nominee of the Department of Interior and Local Government, approved by the President of the Philippines as Member
- g. Representative from the Labor Sector appointed by the President of the Philippines as Member

SECTION 3. *Section 5, Officers of the NLDC*, to state as “The President of the NLDC shall be the Executive Director of the present NLSF Secretariat. The Vice-President, Corporate Treasurer, the Corporate Secretary and other officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors in a meeting called for that purpose.

SECTION 4. All executive issuances, guidelines, rules and regulation, or parts thereof which are contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

City of Manila, 01 February 2008

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**
President of the Republic of the Philippines

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 682
DESIGNATING CALAPAN CITY AS THE REGIONAL CENTER OF REGION IV-B
OTHERWISE REFERRED TO AS THE MIMAROPA REGION

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Government to promote regional development in order to spur and accelerate economic growth in the countryside and thereby, attain sustainable national development;

WHEREAS, the designation and development of Regional Center in every region does not only foster efficient and effective delivery of government services, but likewise facilitate the establishment of new center of government thereat that can induce economic activities and jumpstart the growth and development in the countryside;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to designate a Regional Center for Region IV-B otherwise known as the MIMAROPA Region, to foster better coordination and promote efficiency in the delivery of the services by the Regional Offices of the area, and allow the development of a new government center in the region.

WHEREAS, the Regional Development Council IV-B, in its Resolution dated 30 August 2007, has favorably endorsed the designation of Calapan City as the Regional Center of the MIMAROPA Region;

WHEREAS, the President, under Administrative Code of 1987 and other existing laws, has the authority to designate the Regional Center for every region under her continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Executive Branch;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Designation of the Regional Center of Region IV-B. The City of Calapan in Mindoro Oriental is hereby designated as the mandated Regional Center of the Regional IV-B. In line with this, the Provincial Government of Mindoro Oriental and City Government of Calapan shall jointly identify, develop, maintain and administer the specific and appropriate site for said Regional Center within the boundaries of Calapan City.

SECTION 2. Funding. The funding for the development, maintenance and administration of the Regional Center and site may be drawn from internally generated funds of the concerned LGUs, national government, and from other funding sources which may include private and business sector through schemes allowed under existing laws.

SECTION 3. Catalyst for New Government Center. The development and operation of said Regional Center shall be directed toward evolving it into a new center of government that will induce economic activities and spur development in the Region. For this purpose, the NEDA Regional Office IV-B, in coordination with the Office of the Presidential Adviser for New Government Centers, the pertinent Local Government Units, the concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, and private sector, shall formulate an overall program and strategy to achieve this objective. Such program

and strategy shall be submitted to the Regional Development Council IV-B for its adoption and inclusion in the regional investment priority plan of the MIMAROPA Region.

SECTION 4. Transfer of Regional Offices in the Regional Center. All the Regional Offices in Region IV-B shall immediately relocate in the above mandated Regional Center, starting with the establishment of their satellite offices in the area within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Order, and their full transfer within eighteen (18) months thereafter. For this purpose, the Regional Offices shall adopt and implement the respective relocation plan which should incorporate measures to address possible concerns of employees affected by the transfer.

SECTION 5. Roles of the Government Agencies. All heads of Departments, Agencies and Bureaus, including Government-Owned-and-Controlled-Corporations and Government Financial Institutions, are hereby directed to provide support to the above transfer of the Regional Offices, and to the development of the Regional Center in Calapan City as well as to its promotion as the new center of government in MIMAROPA Region.

SECTION 6. Reportorial Requirement. The Regional Development Council IV-B, through the NEDA Regional IV-B, shall submit regular status report to the Office of the President, copy furnished the Office of the Presidential Adviser for New Government Centers and the Presidential Management Office, on the compliance by the concerned Regional Offices and their respective Departments and Head Offices with this Order, and the progress of the implementation of the above program and strategy for the new center of government.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. All Orders and issuances or any part thereof, which are deemed inconsistent with this Order, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila **22nd** day of **November**, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 683
AUTHORIZING THE USE OF FEES, REVENUES AND RECEIPTS FROM SERVICE CONTRACT
NO. 38 FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
FOR THE PEOPLE OF PALAWAN

WHEREAS, on 11 December, 1990, the Republic of the Philippines, represented by the Department of Energy (DOE), entered into Service Contract No. 38 (SC 38) and engaged the services of a consortium composed today of Shell B.V., Shell Philippines LLC, Chevron Malampaya LLC and PNOC-Exploration Corporation (EC), as Contractor for the exploration, development and production of petroleum resources in an identified offshore area, known as the Camago-Malampaya Reservoir, to the West Philippines Sea;

WHEREAS, Sec. 8 of Presidential Decree No. 910, authorizes the use of the fees, revenues and receipts from SC 38 for such purpose as may be directed by the President of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, President as Chief Executive has a broad perspective of the requirements to develop Palawan as a major tourism destination from the point of view of the National Government, which has identified the Central Philippines Superregion, of which Palawan is a part, for tourism infrastructure investments

WHEREAS, there is a pending court dispute between the National Government and the Province of Palawan on the issue of whether Camago-Malampaya Reservoir is within the territorial boundaries of the Province of Palawan thus entitling the said province to 40% of the Net Government Share in the proceeds of SC 38 pursuant to Sec. 290 of Republic Act No. (RA) 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code";

WHEREAS, Sec. 25 of RA 7160 provides that the President may, upon request of the local government unit (LGU) concerned, direct the appropriate national government agency to provide financial, technical or other forms of assistance to the LGU;

WHEREAS, the duly-authorized representatives of the National Government and the Province of Palawan, with the conformity of the Representatives of the Congressional Districts of Palawan, have agreed on a Provisional Implementation Agreement (PIA) that would allow 50% of the disputed 40% of the Net Government Share in the proceeds of SC 38 to be utilized for the immediate and effective implementation of development projects for the people of Palawan;

NOW, THEREFORE I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the power vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Subject to existing laws, and the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is hereby authorized to release funds to the implementing agencies (IA) pursuant to the PIA, upon the endorsement and submission by the DOE and/or the PNOC Exploration Corporation of the following documents:

- 1.1. Directive by the Office of the President or written request of the Province of Palawan, the Palawan Congressional Districts or the Highly Urbanized City of Puerto Princesa, for the funding of designated projects;
- 1.2. A certification that the designated projects fall under the investment program of the Province of Palawan, City of Puerto Princesa, and/or the development projects identified in the development program of the National Government or its agencies; and
- 1.3. Bureau of Treasury certification on the availability of funds from the 50% of the 40% share being claimed by the Province of Palawan from the Net Government Share under SC 38;

Provided, that the DBM shall be subject to the actual collections deposited with the National Treasury, and shall be in accordance with the Annual Fiscal Program of the National Government.

SECTION 2. The IA to whom the DBM released the funds pursuant to Section 1 hereof shall be accountable for the implementation of the projects and the expenditures thereon, subject to applicable laws and existing budgeting, accounting and auditing rules and regulations. For recording purposes, the DBM may authorize the IAs to open and maintain a special account for the amounts released pursuant to this Executive Order (EO).

SECTION 3. The National government, with due regard to the pending judicial dispute, shall allow the Province of Palawan, the Congressional Districts of Palawan and the City of Puerto Princesa to securitize their respective shares in the 50% of the disputed 40% of the Net Government Share in the proceeds of SC 38 pursuant to the PIA. For the purpose, the DOE shall, in consultation with the Department of Finance, be responsible for preparing the Net Government Revenues for the period of to June 30, 2010.

SECTION 4. The amounts released pursuant to this EO shall be without prejudice to any on-going discussions or final judicial resolution of the legal dispute regarding the National Government's territorial jurisdiction over the areas covered by SC 38 in relation to the claim of the Province of Palawan under Sec. 290 of RA 7160.

SECTION 5. The DBM is hereby authorized to promulgate such guidelines as may be necessary to ensure the orderly implementation of Secs. 1 and 2 hereof.

SECTION 6. All other orders, rules, regulations and issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila, on this 1st day of December, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 684
DESIGNATING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT LOT LOCATED AT JESUS STREET,
NAGTAHAN, PANDACAN, FOR THE USE AND ENJOYMENT OF THE
PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF MANILA

WHEREAS, Section 9 of Republic Act No. 6390 provides for an immediate source of funds to finance the Agrarian Reform Program of the government, transferring certain assets of the national government to augment the capital base of the Land Bank;

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 139 excluded from the provision of Section 9 of Republic Act No. 6390, certain properties and reserved the same for the use of the City of Manila, containing a total area of Thirty One Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Four square meters (31,284 sq. m.), more or less, situated in Jesus Street, Nagtahan, Pandacan, Manila;

WHEREAS, out of the reserved total area, improvements were introduced on the Four Thousand Five Hundred square meter (4,500 sq. m.) lot on which four-storey Multipurpose and Administration buildings were constructed, which are being administered by a non-governmental organization (NGO) accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for the delivery of service to the people of Manila, such as education and technology transfer;

WHEREAS, there is need to fully make use of the lot that will enhance the program of the national government through TESDA to benefit the people of the City of Manila.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Lot Use.* The Four Thousand Five Hundred square meters (4,500 sq. m.) lot situated in Jesus Street, Nagtahan, Pandacan, Manila, as well as all improvements thereon, is hereby designated and reserved for the use and benefit of the City of Manila through TESDA.

SEC. 2. *Institution of Programs.* TESDA and the accredited NGO shall devise and implement programs for manpower and livelihood training by utilizing the subject lot and buildings, including all the improvements thereon, for the benefit of the City of Manila.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* All other executive orders, rules, regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Order are hereby repealed, superseded or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity.* This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila this **17th** day of **December**, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 685
EXPANDING THE PRESCHOOL COVERAGE TO INCLUDE CHILDREN
ENROLLED IN DAY CARE CENTERS

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act 8980 declares the policy that the state shall institutionalize integrated system of Early Childhood Care and Development that will serve all children 0-5 years old including children with special needs and respect for cultural diversity with end in view of improving the quality of life for young children. The law likewise ensures that there is an efficient system of identification, prevention, referral, and intervention for development disorders and disabilities in early childhood;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has committed to the Global Movement on Education for All (EFA) since 1990 and has affirmed its commitment in the Philippine EFA 2010 National Action Plan, a component of which is the universal participation and total elimination of drop-out and repetition in Grades 1-3 through a quality assured program for pre-school and early childhood care and development for 3-5 years old children;

WHEREAS, pre-school experience is a determinant factor in the performance of Grade 1 students in the formal school system and was reported that children with quality early experience achieved significantly higher than those without ECD experience;

WHEREAS, pre-school experiences provide the essential stimulation needed by 5 year old children to become ready for formal schooling in Grade 1, thus should be expanded to reach all children aged 5 years old, with first priority to reaching those children least likely to enter school or most likely to drop-out or repeat in Grades 1-3;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA-MACAPAGAL – ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Coverage – The Department of Education is directed to expand its Pre-school program coverage to include pre-school children enrolled in Day Care Centers.

SECTION 2. Training of Teachers – Existing Day Care Center workers shall be provided with teacher training on the curriculum and competencies for pre-school education together with the necessary instructional materials by the Department of Education.

SECTION 3. Curriculum and Instructional Supervision – The supervision of educational programs, curriculum and instruction in Day Care Centers shall be exercised by the Department of Education.

SECTION 4. Local Government Units (LGUs) to support existing ECCD programs – The following health and nutrition related programs shall continue to be supported by the LGU's:

- i) Primary health care;
- ii) Pre-natal and post-natal care;
- iii) Nutrition education;
- iv) Micronutrient supplementation; and
- v) Supplementary feeding.

The Department of Health (DOH) and the National Nutrition Council (NCC) shall continue to extend support to LGU's and the Department of Education for additional resources and technical support whenever these are available.

SECTION 5. Local Government Unit support – The following programs shall continue to be supported by the LGU's in the form of basic infrastructure, provision of facilities, materials and equipment, and compensation to service providers: i) day care program; ii) parent effectiveness service; iii) child minding centers; iv) family day care; and v) parent-child development program.

SECTION 6. Roles and responsibilities of DSWD and other member agencies of the National Early Childhood Care and Development Coordinating Council (NECCDCC) – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the other member agencies of the NECCDCC shall continue to perform their functions as provided by Sections 26 and 27 of Rule IV of the Rules and Regulations Implementing RA 8980 subject to the mandate of the Department of Education expanding its Pre-School Programs as contained in this Executive Order.

SECTION 7. Focus for initial implementation – For purposes of the initial implementation of this Order, the Department of Education shall initially focus on 5 year old children enrolled in Day Care Centers in the 50% of the lowest performing schools in each region.

SECTION 8. Funding – The Department of Education shall include in its annual general appropriations the necessary funding to support and to sustain the implementation of the said Pre-School Programs.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause – All executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall be implemented beginning the school year 2008 - 2009.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 10th day of **January**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 686
TOLL REGULATORY BOARD

**TRANSFERRING BACK THE TOLL REGULATORY BOARD FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS AND CLARIFYING ITS MANDATE**

WHEREAS, on 31 March 1977, Presidential Decree No. (PD) 1112 authorized the establishment of toll facilities on public improvements and created a board for the regulation thereof, now known as the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB or Board);

WHEREAS, PD 1112 gave the Board the power, subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines, to enter into contracts in behalf of the Republic of the Philippines for the construction, operation and maintenance of toll facilities;

WHEREAS, PD 1112 gave the Board the power to determine and decide the kind, type and nature of public improvement that will be constructed and/or operated as toll facilities;

WHEREAS, PD 1112 gave the Board the power to condemn private property for public use subject to the provisions of existing law;

WHEREAS, PD 1112 gave the Board the power to issue, modify and proclaim from time to time the rates of toll that will be charged the direct users of toll facilities and upon notice and hearing, to approve or disapprove petitions for the increases therefore;

WHEREAS, PD 1112 gave the Board the power to grant authority to operate a toll facility and to issue the necessary "Toll Operation Certificate";

WHEREAS, on 10 October 2002 Executive Order No. (EO) 133 transferred the TRB from the Office of the President (OP) to the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC);

WHEREAS, on 29 August 2006 the Supreme Court in *Mirasol vs. the Department of Public Works and Highways and TRB* decided that the DOTC and not DPWH "has the authority to administer and enforce all laws, rules and regulations relative to transportation";

WHEREAS, on 30 July 2007, EO 644 transferred the TRB from DOTC to the Department of Public Works and Highways;

WHEREAS, entering into contracts is not a regulatory function but rather an administrative function;

WHEREAS, determining and deciding the kind, type and nature of public improvement that will be constructed and/or operated as toll facilities is not a regulatory function but rather a planning function;

WHEREAS, the power the power to condemn private property for public use is subject to the provisions of existing law on expropriations, and forms part of the implementing powers of infrastructure agencies; the power to condemn private property for public use subject to the provisions of existing law;

WHEREAS, the power to issue, modify and proclaim from time to time the rates of toll that will be charged the direct users of toll facilities and upon notice and hearing, to approve or disapprove petitions for the increases therefore is a regulatory function;

WHEREAS, the power to grant authority to operate a toll facility and to issue the necessary "Toll Operation Certificate" is a regulatory function;

WHEREAS, the President of the Philippines has continuing authority to recognize the administrative structure of the OP by, among others, transferring any agency under the OP to any department of agency of the government pursuant to paragraph 3, Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of EO 292;

WHEREAS, for purposes of government rationalization, regulation should be separated from administration, planning or implementation;

NOW THEREFORE I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. By virtue of the required approval of the President for the Board to exercise its power to enter into contracts in behalf of the Republic of the Philippines for the construction, operation and maintenance of toll facilities for highways, roads, bridges and public thoroughfares, such power is hereby removed from the Board and vested in the DPWH;

SECTION 2. The power to determine and decide the kind, type and nature of highways, roads, bridges and public thoroughfares is hereby vested in the DPWH;

SECTION 3. The power condemn private property for highways, roads, bridges and public thoroughfares is hereby vested in the DPWH;

SECTION 4. The Board shall concentrate on the following powers:

- (a) The power to issue, modify and proclaim from time to time the rates of toll that will be charged the direct users of toll facilities and upon notice and hearing, to approve or disapprove petitions for the increases; and
- (b) The power to grant authority to operate a toll facility and to issue the necessary "Toll Operation Certificate."

SECTION 5. The Board with its clarified functions is hereby transferred back from DPWH to DOTC.

Manila, 19 December 2007

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 687
PLACING TASK FORCE SUBIC UNDER THE PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-SMUGGLING GROUP

WHEREAS, Task Force Subic was created by Executive Order 384 to prevent and suppress smuggling and other related practices against customs laws at the Subic Bay Freeport and all areas under jurisdiction of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA);

WHEREAS, large-scale smuggling and fraud upon customs and other related practices undermine the economy and national security;

WHEREAS, there is a need to closely supervise the activities of Task Force Subic so as to effectively curtail smuggling and other related practices against customs laws at the Subic Bay Freeport and all areas under jurisdiction of the SBMA;

WHEREAS, Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution provides that the President shall have control of all executive departments, bureaus and offices and shall ensure that all laws be faithfully executed;

WHEREAS, paragraph 2, Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of Executive Order No. 292 grants the President the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President and the power to transfer any function under the Office of the President to any other Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA-MACAPAGAL – ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Placement under the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group. Task Force Subic is hereby placed under the supervision of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group.

SECTION 2. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **28th** day of December, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 688
STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF IMPLEMENTATION AND
PRESCRIBING THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1345
ISSUED ON APRIL 2, 1978

WHEREAS, under Republic Act (RA) No. 6234, the State adheres to the policy of undertaking a comprehensive and continuing water program and the management of waterworks systems must be supervised and controlled by the State to insure continuous supply of clean water for domestic uses which are essential public services that are vital to public health and safety;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the commitment of the national government and in line with the 10-point Agenda of the Arroyo Administration of ensuring the potable water supply requirements of the local government units, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) shall implement a program of construction and improvement of the present water distribution system, including the complete take over and control of the water systems of subdivision housing projects in Metro Manila and nearby towns and cities in its service area;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to strengthen and expand the implementation of Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1345 as part of the strategy of the MWSS to improve the efficiency and viability of the water systems of subdivision housing projects and clarify the responsibilities of other critical support agencies, particularly the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), in the implementation of the said Presidential Decree to bring down operating cost and make it affordable to the end-consumers;

WHEREAS, Section 1 and 2 of PD 1345 mandated the MWSS to “xxx upon petition of the Homeowners Association and upon recommendation of the National Housing Authority, take over the operation and maintenance of centralized water systems of residential subdivisions within its territorial jurisdiction. Upon takeover, xxx the MWSS shall cause the system to operate at the desired level to provide adequate potable water supply. The cost to render the system operable shall be chargeable to the subdivision owner/developer provided that the provision of adequate water supply has been specified or implied in the contract of sale or other forms used in offering the housing units within the project for sale. Otherwise, the cost to make the system operational shall be chargeable to the homeowners of the subdivision.”

WHEREAS, pursuant to its corporate mandate under Section 3 of RA 6234, the MWSS or its agents can construct works across, over, through, and/or alongside any stream, watercourse, canal, ditch, street, avenue, highway or railway, whether public or private, to rehabilitate the water system inside or outside the subdivision housing projects;

WHEREAS, the primary scheme envisioned in the implementation and development of water distribution and upgrading of water system of subdivision housing project is the arrangement with the private sector which shall require no direct government funding or appropriation;

WHEREAS, the MWSS, in consultation with the HLURB was tasked, among others, to issue the necessary implementing rules and guidelines to implement the provisions of PD 1345;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The MWSS is hereby directed to be the lead agency in the implementation of Presidential Decree 1345 and, either by itself or through its private concessionaries, shall perform the following:

1. Upon petition of the homeowners' association or the owner/developer, oversee the development and upgrading of the water distribution system directly to housing subdivision projects, including the take over of the centralized water system. Upon take over, the two private concessionaires are enjoined to provide water services that are at par if not better than the acceptable performance standards set in the concession agreement.
2. Review the plans and issue the necessary certification for the putting up of water systems of new subdivision housing projects, including those implemented by the shelter agencies and the local government units to ensure that their water reticulation system conforms with acceptable standard requirements, prior to issuance of housing permits and licenses;
3. Extend its water connection to flagship housing projects and resettlement sites including nearby towns of Metro Manila within its area of jurisdiction;
4. Conduct compliance monitoring and inventory of subdivision housing projects whose water systems should have been turned over to MWSS pursuant to its mandate under PD 1345;
5. Conduct investigation and initiate filing of cases on the reported charging of exorbitant water fees in subdivision housing projects and refusal of some private developers to comply with the intent of PD 1345; and
6. Issue summons and direct the housing developers with the assistance of the HLURB to allow the MWSS and its concessionaires/agents (pursuant to Section 3 of RA 6234) to construct or perform rehabilitation works of the water systems on existing roads, streets, avenue, highway whether inside or outside the subdivision housing projects, in order to efficiently and effectively implement this Order.

SECTION 2. As a regulatory agency of the housing sector having oversight function over private developers engaged in housing development, the HLURB is hereby directed to perform the following;

1. Recommend compliance by the owner/developer of housing subdivision projects of Section 2 of PD 1216 (which amended PD 957), that upon issuance of certification from the HLURB regarding the completion of roads, alleys, sidewalks, the same should be donated to the local government unit (LGUs);
2. Give the favorable recommendation before MWSS can take over water systems and provide assistants to effect the take over by the MWSS or its concessionaires/agents; and
3. Secure the approval of the HLURB Board for the inclusion of the requirements of Section 1 of PD 1345 in the operating guidelines of BP 220 and PD 957.

SECTION 3. An Executive Committee is hereby created, which shall act as the overall coordinating body with oversight functions over the implementation of PD 1345. The said committee shall be composed of the following:

Chairman : Administrator, MWSS
Members : Chairman, National Water Resources Board
Chief Executive Officer, HLURB
Representative of Concerned LGU
Representatives of the two Private Concessionaires

The Executive Committee, with MWSS as secretariat, shall have the following functions:

1. Formulate policies, general rules and guidelines needed for the uniform and effective implementation of water connection services at all level, including the valuation criteria to be used for existing water supply systems in residential subdivisions which may be turned over to MWSS for administration pursuant to this Order;
2. Ensure the participation of various agencies, local government units and private sector organizations;
3. Monitor the overall implementation of the program and where necessary assist the local government units and shelter agencies in the resolution of problems and issues relative to the water requirements of their housing projects;
4. Formulate systems and procedures for the turn over of existing water systems to MWSS; and
5. Submit quarterly reports on the progress of implementation of the program to the Office of the President.

SECTION 4. The MWSS may call upon other government departments or agencies for support and assistance in the implementation of this Executive Order, such as the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Metro Manila Development Authority, and the National Housing Authority.

SECTION 5. The members of the Executive Committee shall provide the necessary funds to carry out their roles and tasks relative to this Order. Additional funding requirements for operations shall be incorporated in the regular budgets of the member agencies as part of their regular programs as mandated by pertinent laws.

SECTION 6. The attached “Rules and Regulations Implementing the provisions of Presidential Decree 1345 dated April 2, 1978” which shall form an integral part of this Executive Order, are hereby approved and adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila, this **27th** day of **December**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 689
TRANSFERRING THE PHILIPPINE MINING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FROM THE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WHEREAS, the Philippine Mining Development Corporation (formerly the Natural Resources Mining Development Corporation) is a government-owned and controlled corporation primarily tasked to conduct and carry on the business of exploring, developing, mining, smelting and producing, transporting, storing, distributing, exchanging, selling, disposing, importing, exporting, trading and promotion of gold, silver, copper, iron and all kinds of mineral deposits and substances;

WHEREAS, in order to closely monitor and oversee the efficient and effective implementation of the country's utilization and development of its mineral resources, there is a need to transfer the Philippine Mining Development Corporation from the Office of the President to the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources;

WHEREAS, under Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of the Administrative Code of 1987, the President has the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Transfer.* – The Philippine Mining Development Corporation is hereby transferred from the Office of the President to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. *Effectivity.* – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **27th** day of December, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 690

**TRANSFERRING THE LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY (LRA) FROM THE DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, the Land Registration Authority (LRA) is an attached agency of the Department of Justice (DOJ);

WHEREAS, LRA is mandated to issue decrees of registration and certificates of title and register documents, patents and other land transactions for the benefit of landowners, Agrarian Reform-beneficiaries and the registering public in general;

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is the government agency that exercises supervision and control over alienable and disposable public lands;

WHEREAS, there is a need to transfer LRA from DOJ to DENR in order to have a concerted and well-coordinated effort in formulating policies as well as planning and implementing programs and projects of the LRA; and

WHEREAS, under Section 31, Chapter 10, Book III of Executive Order No. 292, series of 1987, otherwise known as the "Administrative Code of 1987", the President, in order to achieve simplicity, economy and efficiency, has the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Land Registration Authority, an attached agency of the Department of Justice (DOJ), is hereby transferred to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

SECTION 2. All other rules, regulations and issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **28th** day of December, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 691

TEMPORARILY MODIFYING THE RATES OF IMPORT DUTY ON CRUDE PETROLEUM OILS AND REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS UNDER SECTION 104 OF THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978 (PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1464), AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, soaring fuel prices to unprecedented levels brought about by current international and geopolitical tensions and tight gasoline supplies warrant the modification in the rates of duty on crude petroleum oils and refined petroleum products to protect consumer welfare;

WHEREAS, an automatic tariff mechanism based on certain triggers indexed to international oil prices would soften the impact of high and rising world prices on the economy and the consuming public without necessarily draining government revenues;

WHEREAS, Section 6 (*Tariff Treatment*) of Republic Act No. 8479, otherwise known as the “*Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998*” provides that: “Any law to the contrary notwithstanding and starting with the effectivity of this Act, a single and uniform tariff duty shall be imposed and collected both on imported crude oil and imported refined petroleum products at the rate of three percent (3%): *Provided, however*, That the President of the Philippines may, in the exercise of his powers, reduce such tariff rate when in his judgment such reduction is warranted, pursuant to Republic Act No. 1937, as amended, otherwise known as the Tariff and Customs Code: *Provided, further*, That beginning January 1, 2004 or upon implementation of the Uniform Tariff Program under the World Trade Organization and ASEAN Free Trade Area commitments, the tariff rate shall be automatically adjusted to the appropriate level notwithstanding the provisions under this Section.”

WHEREAS, Section 401 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978 (Presidential Decree No. 1464), as amended, empowers the President of the Republic of the Philippines to increase, reduce, or remove existing rates of import duty, as well as to modify the form of duty and the tariff nomenclature under Section 104 of the Code;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The articles specifically listed in Annex “A” hereof, as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be subject to the Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) rate of import duty in accordance with the schedule indicated opposite each article.

SECTION 2. The rates of import duty on tariff headings not enumerated and those listed but represented by the symbol “x x x” shall remain in force and in effect.

SECTION 3. The MFN rates on crude and refined petroleum products shall be reduced based on certain triggers indexed to oil prices in the world market. The tariffs shall be automatically restored as international oil prices move down based on the same trigger prices. The MFN rates shall take effect upon certification by the Department of Energy (DOE) that a trigger price has been reached and notification of the same shall have been made to the Department of Finance (DOF), for which the corresponding Customs Memorandum Order shall be issued by the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

SECTION 4. Upon the effectivity of this Executive Order, all articles listed in Annex “A” which are entered and withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption shall be levied the MFN rates of duty therein prescribed in accordance with Section 3 above.

SECTION 5. The DOE, in coordination with the Department of Finance (DOF), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) shall promulgate the guidelines to implement this Executive Order.

SECTION 6. All Presidential issuances, administrative rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately following its complete publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines or in the Official Gazette.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 10th day of January, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Reference: Annex A

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 692
EXTENDING FURTHER THE DURATION OF OPERATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MIDDLE
EAST PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE (PMEPC) TO 31 MARCH 2008

I, **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order, in view of the volatile political situation in Lebanon, the extension of the duration of the operations of the Presidential Middle East Preparedness Committee (PMEPC) to 31 March 2008 or unless otherwise directed by the President.

The Committee shall be provided with a funding allocation of Three Million Pesos (P3, 000,000.00) for its administrative and operational expenses to be provided by the Office of the President. Additional financial requirements that may be needed by the Committee shall be sourced out by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) from available funds of the concerned PMEPC member-agencies, subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

All other rules, regulations and issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this **28th** day of **December**, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2007). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 693

**MANDATING THAT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES HAVING THE RANK AND
LEVEL OF DEPARTMENT SECRETARY SHALL HENCEFORTH BE ADDRESSED AS
SECRETARY OF THEIR AGENCIES**

WHEREAS, the heads of government agencies are addressed as Chairman, Director-General, Commissioner, and other similar title/designation;

WHEREAS, such title/designation enjoys the benefits, privileges and emoluments equivalent to the rank of Secretary as stated in their charters;

WHEREAS, in maintaining the highest standard of morale and to observe formality and equity during meetings, affairs and correspondence within the ranks of members of the Presidential family;

WHEREAS, Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution provides that the President shall have control of all executive departments, bureaus and offices and shall ensure that all laws be faithfully executed;

WHEREAS, paragraph 2, Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of Executive Order No. 292 grants the President the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President and the power to transfer any function under the Office of the President to any other Department;

NOW, THEREFORE I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Order — All Heads of Government Agencies having the rank and level of a Department Secretary shall be addressed as Secretary of their agency.

Section 2. Repealing Clause — All orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 3. Effectivity — This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 18th day of January, 2008.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 694

**ENABLING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO OPT TO LADDERIZE THEIR
EDUCATION PROGRAMS WITHOUT NEED FOR ISSUANCE OF PERMIT FROM THE
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION
AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the agenda of this administration is to prioritize the creation of six to ten million jobs and the expansion of youth opportunities.

WHEREAS, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) are the agencies tasked to ensure the implementation of Executive Order No. 358 “TO INSTITUTIONALIZE A LADDERRIZED INTERFACE BETWEEN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) AND HIGHER EDUCATION (HE)

WHEREAS, Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution provides that the President shall have control of all executive departments, bureaus and offices and shall ensure that all laws be faithfully executed;

WHEREAS, paragraph 2, Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of Executive Order No. 292 grants the President the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President and the power to transfer any function under the Office of the President to any other Department;

NOW THEREFORE, I GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby order the following:

Section 1. Order — A higher education institution whose programs have been granted Government Recognition by the CHED may opt to ladderize said recognized programs without need for permit either from CHED or TESDA, considering that said ladderization is within the purview of curricular matter, provided that:

- a. The CHED and TESDA have issued a model curriculum for the program/s to be offered.
- b. The Higher Education Institution shall submit a copy of the curriculum for each of the proposed ladderized program to CHED and TESDA who shall see to it that the minimum curricular requirements are observed.

Section 2. Repealing Clause — All orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 3. Effectivity — This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 18th day of January, 2008.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 695
DEVOLVING FULLY BURNHAM PARK TO THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF BAGUIO

WHEREAS, the Philippines has the competitive edge in tourism in the natural wonders of our country and the natural warmth of its people;

WHEREAS, the role of the National Government is to provide the roads to those wonders and the means to take the tourists there rather than to manage resorts;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. (EO) 224, dated February 10, 1995, transferred the administration, maintenance, management and operation of the Burnham Park Reservation from the Philippines Tourism Authority (PTA), to the City Government of Baguio;

WHEREAS, the transfer has been effected since November 1997 by virtue of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) entered into among the management of Burnham Park has been a financial drain on PTA, Baguio City and the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC);

WHEREAS, by virtue of the MOA the NPDC shall work, facilitate and extend to the employees of Burnham Park casual appointments to replace Job Order appointment.

WHEREAS, under EO 224 the City Government of Baguio cannot encumber, mortgage, or alienate any portion of the Park;

WHEREAS, under EO 224 all revenues and collections generated from the operation of the Park shall accrue to the treasury of the City Government of Baguio and shall be used solely for the management, maintenance, operation and development of the Park;

WHEREAS, under EO 224 the Department of Tourism and the PTA shall continue to provide promotional; support and technical assistance for the operation and further development of the Park;

WHEREAS, the City Government of Baguio assures that it has the capability and capacity to operate, manage, maintain and further develop Burnham Park;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, hereby order:

SECTION 1. Transfer of Control and Further Development – Aside from administration, maintenance, management and operation as provided by Executive No. (EO) 224, the control and further development of Burnham Park, including all facilities and improvements thereon except those specified in Section 3 of EO 224, are hereby transferred from the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA) to the City Government of Baguio.

SECTION 2. National Parks Development Committee (NPDC) Employees – The NPDC Employees shall be transferred to the City Government of Baguio, which may rationalize the personnel complement of the resort in accordance with Civil Service rules and regulations.

SECTION 3. Control and Supervision – The City Government of Baguio shall have full control of the administration, operation, management, maintenance and further development of Burnham Park.

SECTION 4. Qualification of Prohibited Act – The City Government of Baguio shall not encumber, mortgage or alienate any portion of the Burnham Park unless approved by the Secretary of Tourism.

SECTION 5. Revenues – All revenues and collections generated from Burnham Park shall accrue to the treasury of the City Government of Baguio and shall first be used for the operation, management and maintenance of the Park. Any net profit not needed for management, operation and maintenance of Burnham Park shall be shared equally by the City and the PTA.

SECTION 6. Promotions and Technical Assistance – The Department of Tourism shall provide the same promotional support and technical assistance for Burnham Park as privately-run tourist facilities.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause – All other executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Effectivity – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 10th day of January, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 696
CREATING THE PAYAPANG BAYAN TASK FORCE (PBTF) ON LOCAL PEACE INITIATIVES

Whereas, Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of the Administrative Code of 1987 provides the President with continuing authority to organize the Office of the President;

Whereas, Article VII, Section 17 of the Constitution provides that the President shall have control of all executive departments, bureaus, and offices;

Whereas, there is a need for a Task Force attached directly under the Office of the President that will pro-actively and exhaustively conduct local peace initiatives and assist the President in the campaign for peace and order in all the Provinces all over the Philippines;

Now, therefore, I, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Republic Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the laws do hereby order:

Section 1. *Creation* – PAYAPANG BAYAN TASK FORCE (PBTF) is hereby created under the Office of the President, pursuant to Article VII, Section 17 of the Constitution.

Section 2. *Composition* – The PBTF shall be led by A Member of Civil Society, the National Security Council shall be Vice Chair and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, the Department of National Defense, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, the Department of Justice and the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office shall be its members.

Section 3. *Functions* – The PBTF shall pro-actively and exhaustively conduct local peace process initiatives, spearhead, advance and lay policy and legal ground work for local peace and security programs in all the Provinces all over the Philippines.

Section 4. *Repeal*. - All other issuances, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 5. *Effectivity*. - This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon approval.

Done in the City of Manila, this 18th day of January, 2008.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 697
PLACING THE OFFICE ON THE MUSLIM AFFAIRS UNDER THE OVERSIGHT OF THE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON THE PEACE PROCESS AND REPEALING
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 517 DATED MARCH 20, 2006

I, **GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO**, President of the Philippines, by virtue of my continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President, do hereby order:

Section 1. The Office on Muslim Affairs (OMA) is hereby placed under the oversight of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP).

Section 2. The Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process shall, whenever appropriate and necessary, institute reforms and direct and/or manage projects to align OMA with the government's thrust for peace and development.

Section 3. Executive Order No. 517 dated March 20, 2006 is hereby repealed.

Section 4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 18th day of January, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 698

STRENGTHENING PROCLAMATION NO. 1637, S. 1977, WHICH DECLARED THE LUNGSOD SILANGAN TOWNSITE RESERVATION, AND DESIGNATING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS OF ANTIPOLO, SAN MATEO AND RODRIGUEZ, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF RIZAL, AS ADMINISTRATOR OF AREAS IDENTIFIED AS NEW TOWNSITE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OF METRO MANILA AND RIZAL PROVINCE

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall, by law, undertake a continuing program of urban land reform and housing which will make available at affordable cost, decent housing and basic services to underprivileged and homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlement areas;

WHEREAS, there is a need to guide and improve the allocation, utilization, management, and development of the country's land resources, and to ensure their optimum use, under the principles of economic growth and efficiency, social equity and justice;

WHEREAS, Proclamation No. 1283, dated 21 June 1974, reserved 5,005 hectares of land situated in Antipolo for Townsite purposes under the provisions of the Public Land Act;

WHEREAS, Proclamation No. 1637, dated 18 April 1977, amended Proclamation No. 1283 by increasing the area covered by the Lungsod Silangan Townsite to 20,312 hectares of properties comprising portions of Antipolo City, Municipalities of San Mateo and Rodriguez, in the Province of Rizal;

WHEREAS, the government is aware that shelter programs generate multiple economic benefits to the marginalized sectors of society and result in the pump priming of our economy and the stimulation of growth in all sectors;

WHEREAS, the President has laid out a Ten-point Agenda to decongest Metro Manila by forming new cores of government and housing centers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao;

WHEREAS, the Local Government Units of Antipolo, San Mateo and Rodriguez, all in the Province of Rizal, are spearheading the initiative to help alleviate the housing problem and are committed to fast-track the initiatives as spelled out in Memorandum Order No. 72 in support of the National Shelter Program;

WHEREAS, such initiative showcases this Administration's seriousness in its anti-poverty strategies, particularly on asset reform that directs the redistribution of physical assets to the poor;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. The Local Government Units (LGUs) of Antipolo, San Mateo and Rodriguez, all in the Province of Rizal, are hereby designated as the administrator of parcels of land within the Lungsod Silangan Townsite Reservation, which shall then be declared as "New Townsite for Government Employees of Metro Manila and Rizal Area", subject to private rights, if any there be, and to final survey.

As administrator, these concerned LGUs, within their respective territorial jurisdiction, shall manage and oversee the development, including the use of proclaimed sites as resource mobilization strategy to raise alternative funds for immediate development of the New Town Housing Project.

Section 2. The Land Registration Authority (LRA), under the supervision of the Department of Justice (DOJ), shall assist the concerned LGUs in the determination of government lands subject of the New Town Housing Project, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Section 3. The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) shall assist the concerned LGUs in the formulation of development plans and implementing guidelines for the New Town Housing Projects of each locality.

Section 4. The DENR shall cause the conduct of boundary and parcellary survey on areas to be administered by the concerned LGUs and shall be the agency primarily responsible for the disposition of these lands pursuant to the provisions of Public Land Act by virtue of Proclamation No. 1283, as amended by Proclamation No. 1637.

Section 5. The concerned LGUs and HUDCC may call on other government agencies for assistance in the formulation of development plans of Lungsod Silangan Townsite Reservation.

Section 6. All orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

Section 7. This Order shall take effect upon publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila, this **18th** day of **January**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 699
AMENDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-GRAFT COMMISSION
CREATED UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12, SERIES OF 2001, AS AMENDED.

WHEREAS, the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission has been strengthened to demonstrate the government's firm resolve to pursue and intensify its anti-corruption campaign;

WHEREAS, in order to meet its expanded mandate, there is now a need to reorganize or restructure the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order the following amendments to Executive Order No. 12, as amended by Executive Order No. 327 (series of 2004), Executive Order Nos. 531, 531-A and 531-B (series of 2006) and Executive Order No. 670 (series of 2007):

Section 1. The first paragraph of Section 2 of Executive Order No. 12 series of 2001, as amended by Executive Order No. 327 (series of 2004) is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Composition. –The Commission shall be composed of a **Chairperson and four (4) Commissioners** to be appointed by the President. All members of the Commission shall serve on a full-time basis and **at least three (3)** of them shall be members of the Philippine Bar.”

Section 2. All orders, rules, regulations and issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended or otherwise modified accordingly.

Section 3. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila, Philippines, this **18th** of January, 2008.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 700

IDENTIFYING THE SOCIAL SECURITY IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM AS THE CORE OF THE UNIFIED MULTI-PURPOSE IDENTIFICATION (ID) SYSTEM AND DIRECTING THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM TO IMPLEMENT THE STREAMLINING AND HARMONIZATION OF THE ID SYSTEMS OF ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENT –OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 420 dated April 26, 2005 required all government agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations to streamline and harmonize their identification (ID) systems and authorized the Director- General, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to implement the same;

WHEREAS, some work has been done by the NEDA on the assignment;

WHEREAS, there are twelve million cardholders of the Social Security System;

WHEREAS, in other countries like the United States, the Social Security card is the most used ID system;

NOW, THEREFORE I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Social Security card shall serve as the core of the unified multi-purpose identification (ID) system.

SECTION 2. The Administrator, Social Security System (SSS) is hereby mandated to take over the work of the Director- General, National Economic Development Authority to implement the streamlining and harmonization of the ID systems of all government agencies and government- owned and controlled corporations towards a unified multi-purpose ID system.

SECTION 3. The Administrator, SSS shall build on the work already done by the Director-General, NEDA.

SECTION 4. The NEDA and the National Statistics Office as well as all other agencies identified by the SSS shall assist the SSS in developing the unified multi- purpose ID system.

SECTION 5. The SSS shall use its funds to carry out the objectives of this Order.

SECTION 6. All Executive Orders or issuances, or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 16th day of January, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Eight.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 601 - 700]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 701

DIRECTING ALL HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS, OFFICES, AGENCIES, AND THE INSTRUMENTALITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE POWER INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS AND THE INVESTMENT OF HANJIN HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND CONSTRUCTION-PHILIPPINES, INC. IN SUBIC AND IN MINDANAO

WHEREAS, it is a declared national policy to attract foreign investment and trade in the country to promote economic growth, generate employment, upgrade technology and accelerate national development;

WHEREAS, the ten-point agenda of the present administration includes the development of Subic as the best international service and logistic center in the region;

WHEREAS, Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction-Philippines, Inc. (Hanjin) will invest about US\$1.6 Billion for a shipyard project in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone that will generate about 20,000 employment thereat;

WHEREAS, Hanjin will likewise invest about US\$2 Billion for another shipyard project in Mindanao that will generate about 30,000 employment thereat;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the concerned government entities to support the investment of Hanjin, particularly its power requirements, in order for the country to become a landmark in the shipping industry in the Southeast Asian Region.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. *Connection Assets in Subic.* – The National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) shall acquire and take possession of the Connection Assets (15 km. 230 kV Transmission Line and 230kV/22.9kV Substation) constructed by Hanjin in Subic.

Section 2. *Funding and repayment scheme.* – TRANSCO shall advance the necessary funds to immediately acquire and take possession of the Connection Assets.

The specific responsibilities of government agencies involved in the acquisition of the Connection Assets (such as, but not limited to TRANSCO, DBM and DOF), including the details of implementing a repayment scheme, shall be embodied in a Memorandum of Agreement for the purpose.

Section 3. *TRANSCO Connection Charges.* – Where applicable, TRANSCO may collect Connection Charges as approved by the Energy Regulation Commission (ERC) from users of the Connection Assts.

Section 4. *Generation, Transmission and Distribution Rates to Hanjin.* – The National Power Corporation (NPC) and TRANSCO shall provide discounted generation and transmission rates of US\$0.0491 for year 0 to year 6 and US\$0.0600 for year 7 to year 10 in its shipyard locations in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone and in Mindanao in accordance with the policies, rules and regulations of these government corporations. Should the prevailing industrial retail rates decrease to a level lower than the discounted rates agreed and granted by the NPC and TRANSCO, the rates shall be

correspondingly decreased to match the prevailing rates. Said discounted rates shall be reported to the ERC. Distribution rates collected by any government entities (i.e., Philippine Economic Zone Authority), if any, shall be waived for the period covered by the grant of discounted generation and transmission rates by NPC and TRANSCO.

Section 5. *Role of Departments, Bureaus, Offices, Agencies, Instrumentalities of the Government.* – All heads of departments, bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the government are hereby directed to give full support to the power infrastructure requirements and investment of Hanjin in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone and in Mindanao.

Section 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 7. *Separability Clause.* – Any portion or provision of this Executive Order that maybe declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying its other portions or provisions, as long as such remaining portions can still be given effect.

Section 8. *Effectivity.* – This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 22nd day of January, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 702

MODIFYING THE RATES OF DUTY ON CERTAIN IMPORTED ARTICLES AS PROVIDED UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF RATES ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS UNDER THE ASEAN INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION (AICO) SCHEME, IN FAVOR OF PHILIPPINE AUTO COMPONENTS, INC. (COE NOS. DENSO/2007/11 AND DENSO/2007/12).

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a Contracting Party to the Basic Agreement on the ASEAN Industrial Cooperation Scheme (AICO) signed in Singapore on 27 April 1996;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory to the Protocol to Amend the Basic Agreement on the AICO Scheme signed in Singapore on 21 April 2004;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a participating country in the approved AICO Arrangements of Philippine Auto Components, Inc. (PACI) along with Indonesia and Malaysia;

WHEREAS, under the AICO Certificate of Eligibility No. Denso/2007/11, the Philippines (Philippine Auto Components, Inc.) will import from Indonesia (PT. Denso Indonesia and PT. Denso Sales Indonesia) certain original equipment manufacture (OEM) parts/components for motor vehicles, as specified in Annex “A”. In exchange, Indonesia (PT. Denso Indonesia and PT. Denso Sales Indonesia) will import from the Philippines complementary parts/components for the OEM of motor vehicles;

WHEREAS, AICO Certificate of Eligibility No. Denso /2007/11 was issued on 26 March 2007, and was amended on 02 August 2007, in favor of the participating companies in the Denso AICO Arrangement;

WHEREAS, under the Denso AICO Certificate of Eligibility No. Denso/2007/12, the Philippines (Philippine Auto Components, Inc.) will import from Malaysia [Denso (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd.] certain original equipment manufacture (OEM) automotive parts/components for motor vehicles as specified in Annex “B”. In exchange, Malaysia [Denso (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd.] will import from the Philippines complementary parts/components for the OEM of motor vehicles;

WHEREAS, AICO Certificate of Eligibility No. Denso /2007/12 was issued on 02 August 2007, in favor of the participating companies in the Denso AICO Arrangement;

WHEREAS, in consonance with Articles 5 and 7 of the Basic Agreement of the AICO Scheme, participating companies in the approved Denso AICO Arrangements shall qualify for 0 – 5% preferential tariff rates to be extended by Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines as participating countries.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, pursuant to the powers vested in me under Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The articles specifically listed in Annexes “A” and “B” hereof, as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be accorded the AICO rate of zero on parts/components as specified in Column 6 thereof.

SECTION 2. The AICO rate provided in Annexes “A” and “B” shall be accorded to the AICO entities in Indonesia (PT Denso Indonesia and PT. Denso Sales Indonesia) and Malaysia [Denso (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd.] upon the effectivity of this Executive Order;

SECTION 3. In the event that any subsequent changes are made in the basic (MFN) Philippine rate of duty on any of the articles listed in Annexes “A” and “B” to a rate lower than the AICO rate prescribed in Column 6 of Annexes “A” and “B” such articles shall automatically be accorded the corresponding reduced rate of duty.

SECTION 4. Upon the effectivity of this Executive Order, the articles specifically listed in the aforesaid Annexes “A” and “B” which are entered or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption shall pay the applicable AICO preferential tariff rates specified under Section 1 hereof, subject to qualification under the Rules of Origin for the CEPT, as evidenced by the Certificate of Origin - Form “D”.

SECTION 5. Any and all revisions to the AICO company appearing in Column 5, of Annexes “A” and “B” as well as in pertinent Section of this Executive Order shall be communicated immediately to the Bureau of Customs by the Board of Investments within five (5) days after receipt of the official copy of the COE on the revised part number/s and/or change or addition of the AICO company from the ASEAN Secretariat.

SECTION 6. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately following its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 22nd day of **January**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

References: Annexes A and B

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 703

MODIFYING THE RATES OF DUTY ON CERTAIN IMPORTED ARTICLES AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMITMENT TO REDUCE THE TARIFF RATES ON EIGHTY PERCENT (80%) OF THE PRODUCTS IN THE INCLUSION LIST TO ZERO PERCENT UNDER THE COMMON EFFECTIVE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF (CEPT) SCHEME FOR THE ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA (AFTA)

WHEREAS, the ASEAN Economic Ministers agreed during their meeting in September 2002 that the CEPT rates on at least 80% of the products in the individual Inclusion Lists of the six (6) original ASEAN Member States would be reduced to 0% by 2007;

WHEREAS, the NEDA Board during its meeting on 18 December 2007 approved the grant of CEPT rates of 0% on various products in the Philippine Inclusion List in compliance with the 80% target;

WHEREAS, Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978 (Presidential Decree No. 1464), as amended, empowers the President of the Republic of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority, to increase, reduce or remove existing protective rates of import duty, as well as to modify the form of duty;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The articles specifically listed in *Annex "A"* (Articles Granted Zero Duty Under the CEPT Scheme for the AFTA) hereof, as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be subject to the ASEAN CEPT rates in accordance with the schedule indicated in Column 4 of said Annex. The ASEAN CEPT rates so indicated shall be accorded to imports coming from ASEAN Member States applying CEPT concession to the same products pursuant to Article 4 of the CEPT Agreement and its Interpretative Notes.

SECTION 2. From the date of effectivity of this Order, all articles listed in *Annex "A"* entered or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption shall be imposed the rates of duty therein prescribed subject to compliance with the Rules of Origin as provided for in the Agreement on the CEPT Scheme for the AFTA signed on 28 January 1992.

SECTION 3. All presidential issuances, administrative rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are contrary or inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately following its complete publication in two (2) national newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **22nd** day of **January**, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 704

AMENDING SECTION 4 OF E.O. NO. 486 DATED 12 JANUARY 2006 (*LIFTING THE SUSPENSION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE TARIFF REDUCTION SCHEDULE ON PETROCHEMICALS AND CERTAIN PLASTIC PRODUCTS UNDER THE COMMON EFFECTIVE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF (CEPT) SCHEME FOR THE ASEAN FREE TRADE ARE (AFTA)*)

WHEREAS, E.O. No. 486 issued on 12 January 2006 provides for the lifting of the suspension of the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) tariff reduction schedule on petrochemicals and certain plastic products and the reversion of the CEPT rates on these products to EO 161 (s.2003) levels once the naphtha cracker plant is in commercial operation;

WHEREAS, there are other technologies other than naphtha cracking that could be used in the manufacture of ethylene, propylene and other monomers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, pursuant to the powers vested in me under Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978 (Presidential Decree No. 1464), as amended, do hereby amend Section 4 of E.O. 486 to read as follows:

SECTION 4. The Department of Trade and Industry, in coordination with the National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Finance, the Tariff Commission and the Bureau of Customs, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations that will govern the reversion of the CEPT rates on petrochemicals and plastic products to EO 161 (s.2003) levels once the naphtha cracker plant OR ANY PLANT THAT USES OTHER TECHNOLOGY FOR DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF ETHYLENE, PROPYLENE AND OTHER MONOMERS is in commercial operation.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately following its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **22nd** day of **January**, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 705
SUBJECTING ONLY NON-ACCREDITED PRIVATE SCHOOLS FOR INSTITUTIONAL
QUALITY ASSURANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

WHEREAS, the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) has been in existence for many years and has acquired a good reputation for accreditation;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Higher Education established the Institutional Quality Assurance Monitoring and Evaluation (IQUAME) in 2005 for regulation purposes;

WHEREAS, there is a duplication of functions between PAASCU and IQUAME;

NOW THEREFORE I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. The Commission on Higher Education shall only subject private schools not accredited by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) for Institutional Quality Assurance Monitoring and Evaluation (IQUAME).

Section 2. Colleges and universities accreditation by PAASCU shall be automatically recognized as accredited by IQUAME.

Section 3. IQUAME shall be a tool not only for regulation but also for incentives for accredited colleges and universities.

DONE in Manila on this 2nd day of January, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 705-A

AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 705, SERIES OF 2008, BY INCLUDING THE HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS ACCREDITED BY THE FOUR OTHER ACCREDITING AGENCIES NOT TO BE SUBJECTED TO THE INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROCESS, AND CREATING A COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR ACCREDITATION HEADED BY THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 705 dated January 2, 2008 subjected private schools not accredited with the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) to the Institutional Quality Assurance Monitoring and Evaluation (IQUAME) process;

WHEREAS, other accrediting agencies are desirous of the same benefits enjoyed by PAASCU-accredited schools, colleges and universities;

WHEREAS, the Presidential Task Force for Education has endorsed the proposal of the Presidential Commission on Educational Reform (PCER) for the establishment of a set of common standards for accreditation per discipline.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Section 1 of Executive Order No. 705, dated January 2, 2008, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 1. Higher education institutions with programs accredited by the five existing accrediting agencies, namely: the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU), the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities – Commission on Accreditation (PACU-COA), the Association of Christian Schools, Colleges and Universities – Accrediting Agency (ACSCU-AA), the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities (AACUP), and the Association of Local Colleges and Universities – Commission on Audit (ALCU-COA), shall not be subjected by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) under the process of Institutional Quality Assurance Monitoring and Evaluation (IQUAME), provided that these accrediting agencies conform with a set of common standards formulated by a Coordinating Council on Accreditation (CCA), hereafter to be established by the CHED.”

Section 2. The Coordinating Council on Accreditation, Creation and Composition. The Coordinating Council on Accreditation (CCA) is hereby created, and shall be composed of a Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) who shall sit as chair, and a representative from each of the five (5) existing accrediting agencies as members.

Section 3. CCA Secretariat. The CCA shall be assisted by a Secretariat who shall be based in the CHED. Its main responsibility is to ensure the efficient and effective operations of the CCA. It shall be composed of Technical Staff drawn from the CHED.

Section 4. CCA Meetings. The CCA shall meet at least once every quarter or as often as may be determined by the CHED.

Section 5. Funding. The funds for the operating expenses of the CCA shall be drawn from the Higher Education Development Fund (HEDF).

Section 6. Repeal. – All executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 7. Effectivity. – This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 10th day of April, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO R. BUNYE**

Acting Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 – 800]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 706

**MANDATING THE SECRETARY OF TOURISM TO EXERCISE THE ADMINISTRATION
AND CONTROL MANDATE OF THE PHILIPPINE TOURISM AUTHORITY OVER BORACAY
ISLAND AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. (PD) 564 of October 2, 1974 charged and vested the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA) with functions and powers of tourism zone administration and control;

WHEREAS, Proclamation No. 1801 of November 10, 1978 declared Boracay Island, Aklan as a tourist zone under the administration and control of the PTA pursuant to PD 564;

WHEREAS, Letter of Instructions No. (LOI) 1298 of February 26, 1983 constituted the Chairman, PTA, the Chief of Constabulary (now Director General of the Philippine National Police), the Commissioner of Immigration and Deportation, the Commanding Officer (now Commandant), Philippine Coast Guard and the Provincial Health Officer into an Inter-Agency Committee with the PTA as lead agency, to coordinate in enforcing the pertinent laws and regulations and to take action within their respective jurisdiction to prevent the proliferation of all illicit activities which would degrade the ecosystem and destroy the natural attractions of Boracay Island;

WHEREAS, LOI 1298 instructed the Mayor of Malay to suspend issuance of building permits for any structure on Boracay Island pending the promulgation of a development plan for the Island by the PTA;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. (EO) 6 of August 7, 1998 established the Aklan Provincial Tourism Special Development Task Force (Task Force) under the Office of the President which shall be responsible for the overall coordination and supervision of the implementation of the Aklan Provincial Tourism Master Plan;

WHEREAS, EO 6 mandated the Task Force to plan, conceptualize and draft the Aklan Province Tourism Master Plan in the context of ensuring the sustainable development of the Province of Aklan and the Island of Boracay;

WHEREAS, EO 377 of October 22, 2004 authorized an Eminent Persons Group to oversee the sustainable development of Boracay tourism;

WHEREAS, Memorandum Order No. 214 of April 18, 2006 mandated the PTA to exercise administration and control over Boracay Island;

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Tourism is the Chairman of PTA;

NOW THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Secretary of Tourism. – The Secretary of Tourism, as Chairman of the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA), shall exercise the functions of the PTA as mandated by PD 564, Proclamation No. 1801, Letter of Instructions No. 1298, Executive Order No. (EO) 6, EO 377 and Memorandum Order No. 214

Section 2. Suspension of Building Permits. – Consistent with LOI 1298, the Mayor of Malay shall suspend the issuance of building permits for any structure on Boracay Island unless approved by

the Chairman of the PTA and the Governor of Aklan as Chairman of the Aklan Provincial Tourism Development Task Force.

Section 3. Inter-Agency Committee. – The Inter-Agency Committee constituted by LOI 1298 shall be reorganized as a full-time Task Force composed of responsible personnel from the member agencies and headed in behalf of the Chairman of the PTA by the Group Secretary of the Eminent Persons Group created by Executive Order No. 377.

Section 4. Group Secretary. – The Group Secretary shall have the rank and emoluments of Undersecretary of Tourism.

Section 5. All executive issuances, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

Section 6. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 18th day of January, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 707

OPENING THE PORT OF APARRI AS A PRINCIPAL PORT OF ENTRY PURSUANT TO SECTION 702 OF THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AS AMENDED IN RELATION TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7922 OR THE CAGAYAN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE ACT OF 1995.

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7922, entitled “ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREE PORT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA ANA AND THE NEIGHBORING ISLANDS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF APARRI, PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES” provides that it is the “policy of the government to actively encourage, promote, induce and accelerate a sound and balanced industrial, economic and social development of the country in order to provide jobs to the people especially those in the rural areas, increase their productivity and their individual and family income, and thereby improve the level and quality of their condition through the establishment, among others, of special economic zones and free ports in suitable and strategic locations in the country and through measures that shall effectively attract legitimate and productive foreign investments”;

WHEREAS, the opening of the Port of Aparri into a customs principal port of entry will complement efforts to accelerate further not just the economic growth but the total development of the Cagayan Special Economic Zone;

WHEREAS, upgrading the status of the Port of Aparri into a principal port of entry will enable said port to avail of the manpower complement and other resources from national government agencies such as the Bureau of Customs, thereby hastening infrastructure and systems development which will result in the port and the Cagayan Freeport Zone attracting more investors and other locators;

WHEREAS, the expansion of economic activity within the port requires that the Port of Aparri be accorded the status as a principal port of entry;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. *Upgrading of the Port of Aparri and opening it as a Principal Port of Entry.* – The present Port of Aparri is hereby opened and declared as a principal port of entry to be known as the District Port of Aparri.

Section 2. *Authority of the Commissioner of Customs to define the jurisdictional limits of the collection district affected.* – The Commissioner of Customs, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Finance pursuant to Section 701 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP), as amended, is hereby authorize to redefine the jurisdictional boundaries of the Port of San Fernando and to delineate the jurisdictional limits of the new Principal Port of Entry which shall become Customs Collection District No. XV and to be known as the District Port of Aparri.

Collection District XV of the Collection District of Aparri shall have jurisdiction over the entire provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Batanes, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino and such other areas as shall be added

by the Commissioner of Customs, excluding the area covered by the Freeport created under Republic Act No. 7922. It shall have the ports of Curimao, Tuguegarao Airport and the Laoag International Airport as its subports.

Section 3. *Relationship between the Cagayan Freeport Zone Authority and the Bureau of Customs.* – To ensure the smooth operation of Port Irene, as a subport of the District Port of Aparri, and taking into account the peculiar characteristics thereof, the Bureau of Customs and the Cagayan Freeport Zone Authority (CFZA) shall, within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this order, enter into a Memorandum of Agreement defining their working relationships and the treatment of all cargoes entering or leaving the freeport zone.

Section 4. *Authority of the Commissioner of Customs to designate the officials of the Port of Aparri.* – The New Collection District No. XV, also known as the District Port of Aparri, shall be headed by a Collector of Customs V, to be assisted by such Deputy Collectors of Customs as may be determined and designated by the Commissioner of Customs. Each subport under the District Port of Aparri shall be likewise headed by Port Collectors, to be assisted by such Deputy Port Collectors of Customs as may be determined and designated by the Commissioner of Customs.

Section 5. *Implementing Authority.* – Subject to the approval of the Secretary of Finance, the Commissioner of Customs is hereby authorized to determine the personnel requirements of the District Port of Aparri, taking into account the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. For this purpose, he may, subject to applicable Civil Service rules and regulations, issue the needed orders to effect the transfer or movement or personnel from any organizational unit of the Bureau to the Port Irene.

Section 6. *Appropriations.* - Funds for the initial operations of the District Port of Aparri shall be drawn from the available funds of the Bureau of Customs and subsequent appropriations shall be incorporated into its budget proposals, subject to existing budgeting, accounting and auditing laws and procedures.

Section 7. *Effectivity.* – This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila, this 18th day of February, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: Malacañang Records Office

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 708

AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 152, SERIES OF 2002, AND DEVOLVING THE FUNCTION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION FOR THE URBAN POOR AS THE CLEARING HOUSE FOR THE CONDUCT OF DEMOLITION AND EVICTION ACTIVITIES INVOLVING THE HOMELESS AND UNDERPRIVILEGED CITIZENS TO THE RESPECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) HAVING TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OVER THE PROPOSED DEMOLITION AND EVICTION ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 152, series of 2002, designated the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) as the sole clearing house for the conduct of demolition and eviction activities involving the homeless and underprivileged citizens;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 152, series of 2002, granted the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) such powers to fulfill its mandate of ensuring strict compliance with the requirements of just and humane demolition and eviction under the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the established policy of local autonomy and decentralization, there is a need to devolve the functions and mandate of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) to the respective Local Government Units (LGUs) in whose territorial jurisdiction the proposed demolition and eviction activities of all government agencies are to be undertaken.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA-MACAPAGAL – ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Devolution of Clearinghouse functions. The clearinghouse functions of the PCUP stated in Section 1 of Executive Order No. 152, series of 2002, are hereby devolved to the respective cities and municipalities in whose territorial jurisdiction the proposed demolition and eviction activities of government agencies are to be undertaken.

SECTION 2. Creation of Local Housing Boards. The Local Government Units must create their own Local Housing Boards or any similar body through an appropriate ordinance before conducting the clearinghouse functions granted to them in this Executive Order.

SECTION 3. Guidelines in the enactment of ordinance. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) is hereby ordered to issue the necessary guidelines for the enactment of ordinances creating Local Housing Boards or any similar body to Local Government Units (LGUs) within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Executive Order. The PCUP shall assist the Local Government Units in enacting the ordinances in whatever capacity they can provide within the same period.

SECTION. 4. Residual Functions. The PCUP shall continue with its monitoring and reporting functions. However, all clearinghouse functions, including issuance of notices and clearances to affected families shall be the primary responsibility of the Local Government Unit concerned. The powers and functions mentioned in subsections 4 to 11 of Section 1 and Section 9 of Executive Order No. 152, series of 2002, shall remain with the PCUP.

SECTION 5. All other orders, issuances or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 26th day of February, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 709

REDEFINING THE FUNCTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF DISABLED PERSONS WHICH IS RENAMED AS THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS AND ATTACHED TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER 676 (2007) AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 232 (1987)

WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly adopted on 6 December 2006 the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under Resolution A/61/611 which recognizes the need to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons with disabilities, and to promote the inherent dignity including those who require more intensive support;

WHEREAS, the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities was also adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 48th session on 20 December 1993 by virtue of Resolution 48/96 to ensure that persons with disabilities exercise the same rights and obligation as others, and to recognize the principles and policy guidelines in influencing the promotion, formulation and evaluation of policies, plans, programs and actions at the national, regional and international levels to further equalize the opportunities for persons with disabilities;

WHEREAS, the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 3 December 1982 by virtue of Resolution 37/52 to promote effective measures for the prevention of disability, rehabilitation and the realization of the goals of “*full participation*” of persons with disabilities in social life and development, and of “*equality*”;

WHEREAS, the existing policy of the United Nations on disability provides the establishment of an office on disability affairs that should be under and attached to the highest office of the respective governments to facilitate coordination and monitoring of all matters attendant thereto;

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution Article 13, Section 13 mandates the state to establish a special agency for persons with disabilities for their rehabilitation, self-development and self-reliance, and their integration into the mainstream of society;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 9442, Republic Act 7277 and Batas Pambansa Blg. 344 all provided the need for a strong agency to monitor and advocate the implementation of the programs and services for disabled persons of government agencies.

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 1509 created the National Commission Concerning Disabled Persons to provide persons with disability the fullest measure of protection and assistance to develop their abilities;

WHEREAS, E.O. 232, Series of 1987 provided for the structural and functional reorganization of the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP);

WHEREAS, the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP), by virtue of E.O. 676, Series of 2007, was transferred from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to the Office of the President (OP);

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law and the Constitution, do hereby order:

Section 1. Purpose. This Executive Order shall redefine the functions and organizational structure of the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP) which shall be renamed as the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) and which shall be attached to the Office of the President amending for the purpose Executive Order 676 (2007) and Executive Order 232 (1987).

Section 2. Powers and Functions of the Council. The National Council on Disability Affairs, hereinafter referred to as the “Council,” shall have the following powers and functions:

1. Formulate policies and propose legislations concerning the rights and well being of disabled persons, and lead in the implementation of programs and services concerning the same;
2. Conduct consultative meetings and prepare symposia with all stakeholders, and undertake program evaluation and monitoring to ensure that comprehensive, relevant and timely programs and services are adequate and accessible to persons with disabilities;
3. Conduct researches and studies relevant to formulated policies to promote and enhance at all levels the rights of persons with disabilities;
4. Establish, develop and maintain a data bank on disability in partnership with concerned government agencies and non-government organizations and strengthen the referral services to ensure availability of data to stakeholders and services to persons with disabilities including provision of assistive devices;
5. Establish and maintain linkages and networking with local and international organizations, including organizations of and for persons with disabilities to generate resources and to maximize utilization of existing resources and for purposes of convergence;
6. Serve as a national working body to promote and monitor implementation of national laws and international commitments;
7. Assist in the establishment of self-help organizations and the setting up of specific projects through the provision of technical and financial assistance to draw out the active participation of persons with disabilities in the social and economic development of the country. (Section 31, RA 7277).

Section 3. Composition of the Council. The National Council on Disability Affairs is composed of the Governing Board and its Secretariat. The Governing Board, hereinafter referred to as the “Board,” shall be headed by a Chairperson coming from a non-government organization with the following members:

Department of Social Welfare and Development
Department of Health
Department of Labor and Employment
Department of Education
Department of the Interior and Local Government
Department of Trade and Industry
Department of Public Works and Highways
Department of Transportation and Communications
Department of Foreign Affairs
Department of Justice

Philippine Information Agency

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority; and Six (6) private individuals including two (2) representatives from NGOs with national network on Persons with Disabilities (PWD), two (2) disabled persons representing legitimate PWD organizations, and two (2) representatives from civic groups and cause-oriented organizations concerned with the welfare of PWDs, all of whom shall be appointed by the President upon the favorable recommendation of the Chairperson.

The heads of the concerned departments and agencies shall as much as possible attend the meetings of the Council. In their absence, department heads shall designate permanent and alternate representatives, preferably with the rank of Undersecretary and Assistant Secretary, respectively, who may attend and participate at meetings of the Board for them.

Section 4. The Chairperson, who shall be appointed by the President, shall be an automatic member of the Board and shall be co-terminous with the President. The Chairperson shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. To call and preside over the meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee.
2. To manage and administer the affairs of the Council and the Secretariat.
3. To monitor the implementation of policies approved by the Board.
4. To sign communications for the Board and represent the Board whenever necessary.
5. To solicit and accept, on behalf of the Board, gifts, grants or donations in accordance with government rules, regulations and policies.
6. To execute contracts in the pursuit of the Council's objectives as may be authorized by the Board, in accordance with government rules and regulations.
7. To organize permanent or ad-hoc committees, consisting of members of the Board or such other experts as are deemed necessary for the discharge of functions and objectives of the agency.

The Chairperson shall be the link between the Board and the Secretariat. As such, the Chairperson not only presides over all board meetings, but is also the chief executive officer over the operating units of the organization.

The Chairperson shall have the rank, privileges and emoluments of an Undersecretary. The Chairperson shall be assisted in his/her duties and responsibilities by an Assistant Secretary to be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Chairperson.

Section 5. The Executive Committee. There will be an Executive Committee chaired by the Board Chairperson composed of the eight (8) Sub-Committee Chairpersons and one (1) PWD who is a regular member of the Board chosen by the Chairperson. The NCDA Executive Committee will resolve policy issues or program recommendations before presentation to the Board.

Section 6. Sub-Committees. The Board shall have the following sub-committees:

1. Sub-Committee on Accessibility on Built Environment and Transportation – chaired by the DPWH
2. Sub-Committee on Training, Employment and Livelihood – chaired by the DOLE
3. Sub-Committee on Auxiliary Social Services – chaired by the DSWD
4. Sub-Committee on Health – chaired by the DOH
5. Sub-Committee on Information, Communications and Technology – chaired by the DOTC

6. Sub-Committee on Advocacy – chaired by the PIA
7. Sub-Committee on Education – chaired by the DepEd
8. Sub-Committee on International Disability Network – chaired by the DFA

The members of the sub-committees shall be selected by the Sub-Committee Chairperson from among the members of the Board and other experts on their specific areas of concern.

The Board may create such other sub-committees and task forces as may be deemed necessary to carry out its functions.

Local Government Units (LGUs) are encouraged to create local committees on disability affairs and may designate a coordinator for PWD programs and services. Funds for such purpose may be sourced out by the LGUs concerned from their respective annual appropriations pursuant to Sections 35 and 36 of the Local Government Code.

Section 7. The Secretariat. The Board shall have a Secretariat which will provide the machinery to coordinate functions, organize services, monitor policies and plans and evaluate the implementation of programs and services for persons with disabilities as may be required by the Board in the exercise of its functions. It shall be headed by an Executive Director, who shall be appointed by the Chairperson upon the favorable recommendation of the Board. The Chairperson shall also appoint the other officers and staff of the Secretariat upon the favorable recommendation of the Board.

The main divisions of the Secretariat shall be as follows:

1. Office of the Executive Director
2. Administrative Division
3. Programs Management Division
4. Information, Education and Communication Division
5. Technical Cooperative Division

Section 8. Donations. The Council, through the Chairperson or such other official as may be authorized by the Board, shall solicit and accept gifts, grants and donations in accordance with government rules, regulations and policies.

The gifts, grants and donations shall be administered or disbursed by the Council for the purpose for which they were given or in the absence of such, as the Board may determine, in accordance with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Section 9. Appropriations. By virtue of this Executive Order renaming National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP) as National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), the appropriations for NCWDP will automatically be considered as funds of NCDA.

Section 10. Repealing Clause. All ordinances, rules and regulations, other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 11. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, Philippines, this **26th** day of **February**, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 710
NATIONWIDE ADOPTION OF THE CORN-BASED FARMER-SCIENTISTS RESEARCH,
DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION (RDE) TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TO LIBERATE POOR FARMERS FROM THE
BONDAGE OF POVERTY AND HUNGER

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Philippine development objectives of enhancing the economy's global competitiveness and alleviating poverty and hunger, and consistent with the Administration's focus on agriculture as the engine of growth, the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) 2004 - 2010 targets, among others, the development of at least two million hectares of new agribusiness lands for the creation of at least two million jobs;

WHEREAS the new agribusiness lands for development include the 280,250 hectares of new areas for corn production also covering those in the uplands where more than 20 million poor farmers are dependent on corn grits for food but do not have adequate supply of the grain even for their own consumption;

WHEREAS, there is a successful program known as the Corn-Based Farmer-Scientists Research, Development and Extension (RDE) Training Program (FSTP), an extension program that integrates agricultural research and development, which is designed to enable the poor farmers particularly those in the upland, to liberate themselves from poverty by growing multiple crops and livestock in their corn farms for increased incomes; and

WHEREAS, the FSTP program, which was first piloted in Argao, Cebu in 1994 and has expanded province-wide in Cebu, in all six towns of Siquijor, some towns in Negros Oriental and Leyte in the Visayas, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro in Luzon and Laak in Compostela Valley Province in Mindanao, has successfully demonstrated that small marginalized farmers can be empowered with scientific knowledge of farming to produce more than enough corn for food with a surplus for sale, along with their production of vegetables, fruits and livestock, resulting in farmers' increased income by more than 100 percent, and thereby benefiting not only their families but also their communities and local governments.

NOW, THEREFORE I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order that the Corn-Based Farmer-Scientists RDE Training Program be adopted throughout the country as a National Program jointly implemented by Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB), state universities and colleges (SUCs) and other concerned agencies; and funded by the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB) through funding assistance in kind.

SECTION 1. Scope and Coverage. The FSTP shall cover all upland areas where most farmers, who grow corn and other crops for food, are still living in poverty and hunger. Priority are those farmers living in 6th, 5th and 4th class municipalities particularly the municipalities in the ten priority provinces under the Hunger Mitigation Program.

SECTION 2. Institutional Arrangements. For the operation and implementation of FSTP, following shall be the arrangements between and among concerned national government agencies, the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB), concerned State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and the Heads of various LGU leagues such as the League of Provinces, League of Cities, League of Municipalities and Liga ng mga Barangay:

2.1 National Government Agencies (NGA). The DA shall take the lead in the implementation of the program in partnership with DAR, DENR, DOST, DILG, SUCs, LGUs, and NGOs. The DA's Agriculture and Training Institute shall take charge of the training of the Municipal Agricultural Officers and extension workers of the Local Government Units including the farmers. There shall be coordinators at DA-RFUs level to serve as Regional Secretariat. Following are the detailed duties and responsibilities of the NGAs:

2.1.1 DA

- a. Institutionalize, through the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), the FSTP as one of its extension approaches and ensure its successful implementation down to its intended beneficiaries;
- b. Include in its annual budget proposal, separate funding for the FSTP implementation through the ATI;
- c. Call on all national and local agencies for technical, policy, information, resource assistance and support;
- d. Initiate and conduct national and regional discussions and consultations relative to the objectives, policies and program of action for the implementation of FSTP throughout the country;
- e. Initiate and enhance partnerships with private sectors, donor agencies and other external bodies;
- f. Ensure that FSTP implementation at the grassroots will be a joint undertaking between the national government through ATI and the local government units (LGUs) through a cost sharing scheme;
- g. Facilitate the transfer of farming technologies developed by DA-BAR and other R&D agencies to the FSTP beneficiaries;
- h. Provide marketing and packaging assistance for farm products developed by trained farmers.
- i. Designate regional staff to serve as coordinators and Regional Secretariat.

2.1.2 DOST

- a. Provide technical and financial support for R&D and technology transfer through the development of appropriate production technologies and extension modalities to be used by LGUs and their farmer-clientele;

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- b. Accept R&D proposals which will go through a specific evaluation and approval process on a competitive basis.
 - c. Provide technical assistance in the conduct of capability building and enhancement of FSTP implementation in the program areas;
 - d. Link the Techno Gabay Program through the Farmers Information and Technology Services (FITS) Centers with the FSTP; and
 - e. Through its regional offices, appoint R&D Coordinators for FSTP at the local level.

2.1.3 DAR

- a. Assist in the identification of corn areas;
- b. Provide technical and financial assistance in the conduct of capability building and enhancement programs for the beneficiaries;
- c. Assist the program beneficiaries in the commercialization and marketing of corn products; and
- d. Assist in the organizational strengthening of cooperatives.

2.1.4 DENR

- a. Call upon all national and local agencies for technical, policy, information and resource assistance and support;
- b. Initiate and conduct national and regional discussions and consultations relating to policies, objectives and programs of actions for sustainable upland development;
- c. Review and translate specific recommendations into operational guidelines of national concern, programs and initiatives, key areas and themes in coordination with national and local agencies for sustainable upland development;
- d. Initiate and enhance partnership and coordination with private sector groups, donor agencies and other relevant external bodies;
- e. Provide assistance to the program beneficiaries in the packaging and marketing of products derived from the project areas including resource mobilization; and
- f. Submit regular reports and updates to the Office of the President and other relevant agencies.

2.1.5 DILG

- a. Issue Memorandum Circular on the nationwide promotion of the Farmers-Scientist Training Program (FSTP) at the local level;
 - b. Ensure proper coordination with the concerned local government units (LGUs) in the implementation of FSTP; and
 - c. Provide technical assistance to the FSTP model LGUs in the documentation of their success stories for social marketing and replication using the GO-FAR documentation template.
 - d. Capacitate the model LGUs on the mechanics of the conduct of the Replication Inception Workshop
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2.1.6 CHED-SUCs

- a. Assist in the coordination and implementation of the program in their areas of responsibility as defined in the FSTP Manual of Operation and Management;
- b. Provide resource persons/experts to deliver lectures/demonstrations on topics related to the program;
- c. Provide support funds from their R & D and Extension units/programs; and
- d. Direct SUCs to adopt FSTP in their agricultural extension program.

2.2 University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). The UPLB, through the College of Forestry and Natural Resources shall facilitate the enhancement of science and extension curricula of FSTP in upland development while the UPLB, through the College of Agriculture shall:

- a. Act as the FSTP National Center for Operation and Management, which shall be based at the Agricultural Systems Cluster's office;
- b. Assist in the training of FSTP Coordinators from the national down to regional and provincial levels;
- c. Provide technical expertise, and determine and exercise quality control of technologies adopted and applied by the program and support staff to enhance the operation of FSTP nationwide;
- d. Assist in the transfer of farming technologies developed by UPLB through R & D projects like newly developed corn (OPVs/hybrids), high yielding seeds of fruits and vegetables, new organic fertilizers and other technologies;
- e. Assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the accomplishments of the program; and
- f. Tap the support of other colleges/institutes/centers at the local level with technologies/expertise needed by FSTP.

SECTION 3. Participation of the Local Government Units. The Local Government Units (LGUs) identified as program target areas, are encouraged to: 1) pass a resolution adopting the FSTP as a support strategy for agricultural and economic development through their Local Sanggunian; 2) conduct massive information campaign on the program at the barangay level through their respective Provincial, City and Municipal Agriculturists; 3) provide support in the packaging and marketing of the products of their trained farmers through agro-trade fairs and similar activities for which the needed resources may be taken from their annual allocation for agriculture development; 4) as participating LGUs at the provincial and municipal levels, designate FSTP coordinators who shall comprise the FSTP Management Team of the province; and, 5) As model LGUs, organize the FSTP Management Team to be responsible in the conduct of Replication Inception Workshop.

SECTION 4. Funding. Funds needed to carry out the provisions of this Executive Order shall be sourced from and made part of the regular budget of the key agencies involved like DA, DAR, and DENR. They shall provide not less than 2 percent of their annual budget allocated for RDE Programs for FSTP Operation. The said amount shall be remitted to the FSTP National Center for the operation and management at the UPLB College of Agriculture, through an appropriate legal instrument such as a Memorandum of Agreement, and shall be deposited in a government bank at Los Baños, Laguna (MOA). UPLB shall also provide at least P1M funding assistance in kind (manpower, facilities, etc.) annually for FSTP operation.

DA as the lead agency shall provide a supplemental budget of at least P200,000.00 annually to each participating province and municipality involved in the program as counterpart fund to start and sustain the operation of FSTP.

Fund utilization/disbursements by any and all concerned agencies shall be subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. Any portion or provision of this Executive Order that may be declared by competent courts as unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other provisions hereof, as long as such remaining provisions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. All rules and regulations, other issuance or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause. The Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the city of Manila, this **27th** day of **February**, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**
President

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 711
ATTACHING THE BICOL RIVER BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT
TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, the Bicol River Basin and Watershed Management Project is a six-year project funded by a World Bank loan;

WHEREAS, Bicol River Basin Areas, being on the typhoon path, inundation and flooding are extensive and cause much damage to crops and properties in the area. It is aggravated by the tidal backwater effect and storm surges that travel up the river system. It has also caused saline water intrusion putting limitations on the use of water for irrigation;

WHEREAS, pollution of the lower basin from untreated sewage from urban areas and industrial wastes and high incidence of water-borne diseases are among the perennial problems facing the Bicol River Basin Areas;

WHEREAS, in order to closely monitor and oversee the efficient and effective implementation of the Bicol River Basin Water Management Project, there is a need to attach the same to the Office of the President of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, under Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of the Administrative Code of 1987, the President has the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Attachment.* – The Bicol River Basin Water Management Project is hereby attached to the Office of the President of the Philippines.

SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. *Effectivity.* – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 5th day of March, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 712

**DIRECTING THE IMMEDIATE REVIEW OF EXISTING ORDERS, RULES AND REGULATIONS
ISSUED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS CONCERNING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION,
INCLUDING THE GRANT OF FRANCHISES TO TRICYCLES, ESTABLISHMENT AND
OPERATION OF TRANSPORT TERMINALS, AUTHORITY TO ISSUE TRAFFIC CITATION
TICKETS, AND UNILATERAL REROUTING SCHEMES OF PUBLIC UTILITY
VEHICLES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, numerous transport organizations have complained about the establishment of common transport terminals by the Local Government Units in their respective jurisdiction, the use of their own traffic citation tickets known as Ordinance Violation Receipts (OVR), rerouting schemes in violation of authorized routes as provided in their respective certificates of public convenience issued by the LTFRB, and the enactment of various ordinances which result in additional cost to operators and drivers, such as the mandatory purchase of stickers and driver's identification cards;

WHEREAS, said transport organizations have also objected to the continuous issuance of new franchises for the operation of tricycles and pedicabs despite the existence of too many units already operating on the road and the unsynchronized truck ban resulting in the delay in the delivery of goods;

WHEREAS, the operations of public utility vehicles is imbued with paramount public interest, such that factors that increase the cost of operations of public utility vehicles have a direct impact on transport fares, hence local ordinances, programs and projects which require a fee should be coordinated with the DOTC to ensure that public interest is not prejudiced;

WHEREAS, Section 5 (d) of Executive Order No. 125 as amended grants the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) the power and function to administer and enforce all laws, rules and regulations in the field of transportation while Republic Act No. 4136, otherwise known as the Land Transportation and Traffic Code grants unto the Land Transportation Office (LTO) the power and duty to enforce traffic laws and issue the appropriate traffic citation tickets to erring drivers as well as confiscate their driver's license;

WHEREAS, the establishment and use of transport terminals by public utility vehicles with franchises issued by the national government as well as the determination of their routes fall within the jurisdiction of the DOTC/Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB);

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 458 of the Local Government Code, the power of the Local Government Units (LGUs) to regulate the operation of tricycles and to grant franchise is subject to the guidelines prescribed by the DOTC;

WHEREAS, under Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution, the President has control of all executive departments, bureaus and offices, and pursuant to Section 4 Article IX exercises general supervision over all local government units;

NOW THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by Constitution, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) is hereby directed to immediately review all existing orders, rules and regulations issued by Local Government Units

(LGUs) concerning public transportation within their jurisdiction, including the grant of franchises to tricycles, establishment and operation of transport terminals, authority to issue traffic citation tickets, and unilateral rerouting schemes of public utility vehicles.

SECTION 2. Pending the review by the DOTC under Section 1 hereof of existing orders, rules and regulations issued by LGUs, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall, subject to existing laws, advise LGUs to suspend (1) the establishment and operations of new and existing transport terminals that charge fees and require compulsory use by public utility vehicles, (2) the enforcement of re-routing schemes that violate the authorized routes as provided for in the PUV franchises, (3) the issuance of new tricycle franchises while respecting those that have been issued already, (4) the increase in local fees and charges applicable to public transportation, and (5) the implementation of local programs, projects and ordinances that have impact on the cost of operations of public utility vehicles without first coordinating and getting the approval of the DOTC to ensure that these programs, projects and ordinances do not prejudice public interest by way of higher transport fares.

SECTION 3. The DOTC shall establish a National Land Transport Policy Framework, which shall facilitate the modernization of the land transport industry through the promotion of utility services which are environment-friendly and shall provide assistance to the land transport sector through lease-to-own programs, technical assistance, subsidies, and the encouragement of the use of alternative fuels and/or renewable energy, among others.

SECTION 4. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) shall implement a single ticketing system throughout Metro Manila in accordance with Republic Act 7924.

SECTION 5. The DILG shall, subject to existing laws, establish and implement uniform truck ban hours that shall be applicable to LGUs located in a common area nationwide.

SECTION 6. If any section or part of this Executive Order shall be declared unconstitutional or illegal, the other sections or parts thereof shall not thereby be affected.

SECTION 7. All other orders, issuances or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately following its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 11th day of March, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Eight.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 713

STRENGTHENING THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL ON VALUES FORMATION TOWARDS THE EFFECTIVE PURSUIT OF A JUST AND MORAL PHILIPPINE SOCIETY, AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDERS 314 AND, 347, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Council on Values Formation was created by virtue of Executive Order (EO) No. 314, s. 2004, as amended by EO No. 347, s. 2004, to pursue the establishment and institutionalization of just and moral governance;

WHEREAS, the establishment and institutionalization of just and moral governance is a long-term undertaking founded on the establishment of a just and moral Philippine society;

WHEREAS, continuing efforts to establish just and moral governance sanctioned in previous organizations need to be better coordinated to achieve optimal effect;

WHEREAS, the pursuit of just and moral governance in Philippine society is an undertaking that requires an institutional response that is equipped with sufficient authority beyond that provided by the ad hoc structure of existing council;

WHEREAS, Section 31, Chapter 10, Book III of EO 292 otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, vests the President with the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA-MACAPAGAL – ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Renaming the Ad Hoc Council on Values Formation. The Ad Hoc Council on Values Formation is hereby renamed as the Presidential Council on Values Formation (PCVF).

SECTION 2. PCVF Composition and Structure. The President shall remain as PCVF Chairman and the Secretary of Education as Vice Chairman. The President shall invite a maximum of nine (9) leaders from the various religious groups of the country to be members of the PCVF. Members invited as members of the PCVF shall retain their character as private citizens without government remuneration.

The Council shall determine the appropriate structure for the efficient and effective performance of its functions.

SECTION 3. PCVF Secretariat. The technical and administrative requirements of the PCVF shall be serviced by a PCVF Secretariat, herein created, which shall be headed by a Secretary General to be appointed by the President. The PCVF Secretary General shall have the rank of Assistant Secretary.

SECTION 4. PCVF Functions. The PCVF shall have the following functions:

1. Be the lead government agency which shall work and coordinate with the non-government sector in pursuing the goal of establishing a strong foundation for just and moral governance;
2. Serve as the primary mechanism for effectively coordinating and orchestrating existing values formation programs initiated during previous Administrations;
3. Receive, approve, prioritize and assist in the implementation of programs and projects submitted to the Office of the President that seek to inculcate and strengthen moral values not

just for the bureaucracy, but in Philippine society and its subsectors, such as but not limited to the youth and Filipino families, consistent with the value formation aspirations of the Administration;

4. Design, on its own, or with the cooperation of the non-governmental sector, and assist in the implementation of programs and projects with aims similar to those programs and projects mentioned in the previous paragraph;
5. Make recommendations to the President with regard to any duly supported and substantiated information on incorrigible and undesirable government personnel. Any member of the Council may appear as complainant in any case filed pursuant to such recommendations before the appropriate agency;
6. Manage the Values Formation Fund created in Section 5 of this Executive Order; and
7. Perform other functions such as may be assigned by the President.

SECTION 5. Creation of the Values Formation Fund. The PCVF shall manage the Values Formation Fund, herein created.

SECTION 6. Government Agency Support. All government departments, agencies and offices are directed to extend full support for all activities of the PCVF.

SECTION 7. Funding. The Department of Budget and Management is hereby directed to release one million pesos (P1,000,000.00) to cover the expenses of the operations of the PCVF and the PCVF Secretariat. Funds for the operation of the PCVF and the PCVF Secretariat in succeeding years shall be included in the budget of the Office of the President.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. All issuances, including Eos 314 and 347, s. 2004, rules and regulations inconsistent with this order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly

SECTION 9. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately

DONE in the City of Manila, this **12th** day of **March**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 714

**ENHANCING THE GOVERNMENT'S INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM FOR INTERFAITH
ACTIVITIES, RENAMING THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON INTERFAITH COOPERATION,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution articulates a policy of peace, cooperation and amity with all nations as well as maintain peace and order in the country for everyone to fully enjoy the blessings of democracy;

WHEREAS, interfaith initiatives have been proven crucial to the promotion of peace, cooperation and amity within and outside the country, as well as the development of moral, spiritual and intellectual capacities for the upholding and enhancement of human dignity;

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 626, s. 2007, created the National Committee on Interfaith Cooperation (NCIC) to consolidate, rationalize, and ensure the consistency of the country's policies and position in various interfaith initiatives and forums in and outside the country;

WHEREAS, improvements in the present institutional arrangements are deemed necessary to improve the governmental mechanism on interfaith activities as a tool for promoting peace and upholding human dignity;

WHEREAS, Section 31, Chapter 10, Book III of EO 292 otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, vests the President with the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA-MACAPAGAL – ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Renaming the NCIC. The NCIC is hereby renamed as the Council on Interfaith Initiatives (CII) which shall be the highest policy-setting body for the country's interfaith initiatives and involvement both here and abroad.

SECTION 2. Restructuring the CII. The CII shall have the Chairman of the Presidential Council on Values Formation (PCVF) as Chairman, with the Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process as members.

SECTION 3. Presidential Committee on Interfaith Initiatives. To implement the policies set forth by the CII, there is hereby created under the CII a Presidential Committee on Interfaith Initiatives (PCII) that shall be composed of representatives, with ranks not lower than Assistant Secretary, from the PCVF, the DFA and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP). The PCVF representative shall serve as Chairman of the PCII.

SECTION 4. Functions of the PCII. The PCII shall have the following functions:

1. In coordination with all government agencies, local government units, the academe, and the non-government sectors, formulate and submit for the approval of the CII, a Philippine Plan of Action on Interfaith Cooperation (PPAIC);
2. With the OPAPP as lead, monitor and ensure that the goals and targets within the country under the approved PPAIC are met;

3. With the DFA as lead, represent the country and articulate Philippine interfaith policies and position in different local and foreign forums;
4. Ensure that the Philippines is well-represented and is able to maintain its leadership and its effective participation in the various international interfaith initiative and activities;
5. Receive, approve and prioritize program and project proposals consistent with the approved PPAIC;
6. Make quarterly reports to the CII regarding the status of the PPAIC; and
7. Perform such other functions that the CII may assign.

SECTION 5. Government Agency Support. All government departments, agencies and offices are directed to assist the PCII pursuant to the accomplishment of its functions. Such support includes the establishment of interfaith desks and the designation of focal persons who shall be responsible for undertaking PCII-approved interfaith-related programs and projects in their respective offices.

SECTION 6. Secretariat Support. The PCVF Secretariat shall provide staff support to the PCII.

SECTION 7. Funding. The Department of Budget and Management is hereby directed to release one million pesos (P1,000,000.00) from the President's Contingent Fund to cover the expenses of the PCII for the year 2008. Funding requirements of the PCII in succeeding years shall be included in the PCVF budget.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. All issuances, specifically EO 626, as well as rules and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with this order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately

DONE in the City of Manila, this **12th** day of **March**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 715
ESTABLISHING THE GAWAD CES AWARD

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 1 created the Career Executive Service Board (CESB) to serve as the governing body of the Career Executive Service and mandated it to promulgate rules, standards, and procedures on the selection, classification, and career development of its members;

WHEREAS, the CESB implemented a recognition program in 2005 known as the “Search for Outstanding Career Executive Officers”, which intended to pay tribute to outstanding Career Executive Service Officers (CESOs) and Third Level Eligibles occupying CES positions whose exemplary accomplishments or contributions lead to positive innovations in public management and contribute to sustainable socio-economic developments that ultimately improve the quality of life of the Filipinos;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to highlight these outstanding accomplishments of third level career executives to reward and encourage consistent and superior performance from them, and motivate others in government to give their best to public service and promote excellence among their ranks; and

WHEREAS, the awards shall be based on demonstrated exemplary performance and significant contributions that concretize the ideals of the Career Executive Service of “bringing change where it is needed, expertise where it is missing, and leadership where it is wanting”;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare the upgrading of the Outstanding CEO Award and establish the **GAWAD CES** as an annual Presidential Awards program for the Career Executive Service. The CESB shall issue the appropriate implementing guidelines for the conferment of this Award.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **28th** day of **March**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 716

TRANSFORMING THE CLARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CORPORATION (CIAC) INTO A
SUBSIDIARY OF THE BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (BCDA), AND
AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 193 FOR THIS PURPOSE

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 174, Series of 1994, designated the Clark Special Economic Zone as the future site of a premier international airport;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 193, Series of 2003, established Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC), as a subsidiary of Clark Development Corporation (CDC), to operate and manage the Clark Civil Aviation Complex, including the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA);

WHEREAS, Section 5 (f) of Republic Act 7227 grants BCDA the authority to construct, own, lease, operate and maintain public utilities as well as infrastructure;

WHEREAS, CIAC was granted by the Clark Development Corporation a fifty (50) year franchise to operate the Clark Civil Aviation Complex-Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA);

WHEREAS, the development of Clark to be a globally competitive international service and logistics center in the Asia-Pacific Region has been declared as one of the 10-point legacy agenda of this Administration;

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) pursuant to Executive Order No. 125, as amended by Executive Order No. 125-A Series of 1987, is the primary policy, planning, programming, coordinating, implementing, regulating and administrative entity of the Executive Branch of the government in the promotion, development and regulation of dependable and coordinated networks of transportation and communication systems as well as in the fast, safe, efficient and reliable postal transportation and communications services;

WHEREAS, there is a need to transform CIAC into a subsidiary of BCDA to ensure that the development of the Clark Civil Aviation Complex-DMIA is aligned to the conversion program of BCDA;

WHEREAS, there is a need to clarify the functions and jurisdiction of CDC and CIAC in order to create synergy between the two corporations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA-MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) is hereby transformed from a subsidiary of Clark Development Corporation (CDC) to a subsidiary of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) to operate and manage the Clark Civil Aviation Complex (CCAC) defined herein. The ownership of CIAC shall revert to the BCDA which shall be the recipient of the dividends from CIAC.

SECTION 2. CIAC shall be subject to the policy supervision of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC).

SECTION 3. CDC shall remain the implementing arm of BCDA within the Clark Freeport Zone and Clark Special Economic Zone, *pursuant to Section 15 of RA 7227 and RA 9400.*

SECTION 4. Board of Directors. The powers of the CIAC shall be vested in and exercised by the Board of Directors which shall be composed of not more than nine (9) members.

The Chairman and Members of the Board shall be nominated by the President of the Philippines.

No person shall be nominated as a member of the Board of CIAC unless he is a Filipino citizen, of good moral character, and of recognized competence in relevant fields including but not limited to civil aviation, economics, *finance*, law, engineering or management.

SECTION 5. CIAC shall only engage in aviation, aviation-related services, and aviation-related logistics activities. All lease and business arrangements pertaining to the said services /activities shall now be solely undertaken by CIAC.

SECTION 6. The Clark Civil Aviation Complex (CCAC) shall comprise the area of two thousand two hundred (2,200) hectares, and shall be under the jurisdiction of the CIAC.

SECTION 7. The Clark Industrial Estate 5 (IE5) area measuring approximately 290 hectares is hereby declared a logistics center.

The area of approximately 166.9 hectares within the IE5 area, which is bounded on the East by the East Perimeter Wall; on the West by the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) Interchange; and on the North by the SCTEX Logistics Interchange, shall be under the jurisdiction of CIAC. The remaining areas shall be under the jurisdiction of CDC.

SECTION 8. The BCDA is hereby directed to prepare an implementing plan and take the necessary steps towards effecting the transformation of CIAC, as BCDA's subsidiary, pursuant to Section 16 of RA No. 7227, to include all aspects that will govern the relationships among BCDA, CDC and CIAC.

SECTION 9. All heads of government departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, government owned and controlled corporations and instrumentalities are directed to fast-track the necessary approvals and assists the CIAC to expedite the implementation of the various projects and activities for the development of the Clark Civil Aviation Complex.

SECTION 10. All other orders, issuances or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 3rd day of April, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). [*Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 717
**DECLARING THE PASIG RIVER DREDGING AND REHABILITATION WORKS AS A
PRESIDENTIAL PRIORITY PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the constitution of the Republic of the Philippines mandates the State to protect and promote the right of the people to balanced ecology and sustainable economy in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, the people living near or along the Pasig River have the right to live in an environment that is free from pollution and unsanitary conditions;

WHEREAS, the Pasig River has fastly deteriorated over the past years due to unabated disposal of human sewage from houses and industrial wastes from factories along its banks;

WHEREAS, the Pasig River is considered to be a vital link in the transport of goods and people and its rehabilitation will be beneficial for the development of Metro Manila and the country, in general;

WHEREAS, the Pasig River, being a natural navigational route and strategic location, remains a viable alternative for decongesting the road network system of Metro Manila and its environs, thus positively utilizing the River for increasing commerce and industry;

WHEREAS, the Pasig River, being the catchbasin of floodwaters from several tributaries from upstream areas of the metropolis, is a very important conduit to mitigate the flooding in most areas of Metro Manila, and that its dredging will increase the carrying capacity of the river;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Declaration - The Dredging and Rehabilitation of the Pasig River is a Presidential Priority Project that has to be implemented immediately.

Section 2. Execution – The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), shall be the lead agency in the implementation of the project and that, all Departments, government agencies and entities concerned, are hereby ordered to provide full cooperation for the timely and smooth execution of the project.

Section 3. Repealing Clause – All orders, proclamations, rules, regulations, issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with any provision of this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 4. Effectivity – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this **28th** day of March, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 718
AUTHORIZING THE PHASED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RATIONALIZATION PLAN
OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION AND THE AVAILMENT OF THE
SEPARATION INCENTIVE PACKAGE UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 366

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 366 (Directing a Strategic Review of the Operations and Organizations of the Executive Branch and Providing Options and Incentives for Government Employees Who May Be Affected by the Rationalization of the Functions and Agencies of the Executive Branch) mandates all Departments/Agencies of the Executive Branch and their component units/bureaus, including all corporations, boards, task forces, councils, commissions and all other agencies attached to or under the administrative supervision of a Department to submit a Rationalization Plan to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for its approval by virtue of the delegated authority of the President;

WHEREAS, in compliance with said Executive Order, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has formulated its own Rationalization Plan based on several parameters, among them, the provisions of RA 3601, as amended by PD 552 and PD 1702, RA 8435 Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA), and RA 7606 (An Act Providing a Magna Carta of Small Farmers);

WHEREAS, said laws mandate the NIA to turnover in whole or in part national irrigation systems to duly organized beneficiaries, in this case the Irrigators Associations (IAs) who are the direct beneficiaries of completed irrigation projects/systems;

WHEREAS, RA No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 devolves the construction, operation and maintenance of communal irrigation systems to Local Government Units (LGU) and mandates the NIA to provide technical assistance to them relative to the development of communal irrigation projects/systems;

WHEREAS, IAs have to be developed and empowered to take over the operation, repair and maintenance of irrigation facilities, and the irrigation canals and facilities restored to good condition before the turnover of the management, operation and maintenance can take place;

WHEREAS, given the factors mentioned above, the Rationalization of the NIA would necessitate a phased implementation to ensure the progressive buildup of NIA's infrastructure and organizational capability to sustain irrigation management consistent with the modern realities of rural and agricultural;

WHEREAS, in line with the objectives of the National Government to propel sustainable rural development and ensure food security for the country, the NIA has obtained the support of the World Bank for the financing of the Participatory Irrigation Development Program (PIDP), to reinforce and complement locally-funded programs focusing on infrastructure investment and policy and institutional innovation to achieve a holistic development of the public irrigation sector;

WHEREAS, the PIDP and the complementary locally-funded programs will enable the synchronization of the implementation of the NIA Rationalization Program with the transfer of the management, operation and maintenance responsibilities to the IAs, within a period of five (5) years;

WHEREAS, EO 366 authorizes the grant of incentive benefits to those who may be adversely affected by the Rationalization Program, which incentives may be availed of only within two (2) months after approval of the Rationalization Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the following;

SECTION 1. Phased Implementation of the Rationalization Plan. The NIA Rationalization Plan shall be implemented in phases for a period of five (5) years to commence upon approval of the NIA Rationalization Plan, in lieu of the one-time implementation authorized under EO 366.

SECTION 2. Adoption of the Provisions of EO 366 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The NIA shall strictly adopt all the provisions and guidelines of EO 366 and its IRR in the preparation and implementation of its Rationalization Plan.

SECTION 3. Transition Plan. To ensure the smooth transition from the existing to the rationalized structure, the NIA shall prepare a Transition Plan which shall form part of its Rationalization Plan. The Transition Plan shall contain the targeted number of irrigation systems to be rehabilitated and transferred yearly to the IAs during the five-year period and the corresponding number of personnel to be affected by said transfer, which positions shall be declared co-terminus with PIDP or five (5) years, whichever comes first.

SECTION 4. Effectivity of the Separation Incentive Benefits. The option to avail of the separation incentive benefits provided under EO 366 and its IRR shall be available up to two (2) months after the set annual timeframe for implementation as indicated in the approved Transition Plan. Project slippage, if any, shall not be considered in prolonging the availability of the incentive benefits to the affected personnel.

SECTION 5. Funding. Funds for the payment of incentive benefits needed to implement the First Phase of the NIA Rationalization Plan, as well as the payment of separation or retirement and terminal leave benefits not covered by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), shall be provided by the National Government in the form of subsidy, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations. Funds for the implementation of the Second to the Fifth Phases of its Rationalization Plan shall be charged against peso counterpart funds appropriated for the PIDP in the General Appropriations Act and/or from corporate funds.

Affected personnel, with the five-year phased implementation of the NIA Rationalization Plan, shall receive the incentives authorized under EO 366 computed based on the basic salary of said affected employees as of June 30, 2007, whether the same shall be funded by the National Government or from other fund sources.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. All issuances, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with this EO are hereby revoked, amended or modified accordingly.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 8th day of April, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 719
COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS FOR GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL

WHEREAS, an efficient and effective civil service is crucial to the continuous development of our country;

WHEREAS, the current compensation of government personnel at the administrative/sub-professional and entry professional/technical levels are nearly comparable with those in the private sector, but the gap widens at the higher professional and executive/top management levels, making the latter very uncompetitive;

WHEREAS, the two recent compensation adjustments for government personnel effective July 1, 2006 and July 1, 2007, which accorded priority to those at the sub-professional and lower professional levels in view of limited government funds, have partly uplifted their economic well-being;

WHEREAS, the salaries and base pay of civilian and military/uniformed personnel, respectively, must be raised to address the gap in compensation between the private and public sectors for the government to attract and retain competent public servants;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by Presidential Decree (P.D.) No. 985, P.D. No. 1597, Republic Act (R.A.) No. 6758, as amended by the Senate and House of Representatives Joint Resolution No. 01 dated March 7, 1994, and R.A. No. 9498, the FY 2008 General Appropriations Act, do hereby order:

Section 1. Compensation Adjustments for Government Personnel. - The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is hereby directed to implement the following compensation adjustments effective July 1, 2008:

- a. National Government Agencies (NGAs) Including State Universities and Colleges (SUCs)
 - i. Civilian Personnel - A ten percent (10%) increase over the basic monthly salaries as of June 30, 2008 of civilian personnel whose positions are covered by the Compensation and Position Classification System under R.A. No. 6758, as amended. The adjusted salaries shall be in accordance with the Salary Schedule marked as Annex "A" of this Executive Order.
 - ii. Military and Uniformed Personnel - A ten percent (10%) increase over the monthly base pay as of June 30, 2008 of military personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and uniformed personnel under the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Philippine Coast Guard and National Mapping and Resource Information Authority. The adjusted base pay of military and uniformed personnel shall be in accordance with the Base Pay Schedule marked as Annex "B" of this Executive Order.

b. Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations (GOCCs)

A ten percent (10%) increase over the basic monthly salaries as of June 30, 2008 of GOCC personnel whose positions are covered by the Compensation and Position Classification System under R.A. No. 6758, as amended, subject to the availability of corporate funds.

c. Local Government Units (LGUs)

A ten percent (10%) increase over the basic monthly salaries as of June 30, 2008 of local government personnel, subject to the availability of local government funds.

Section 2. Exclusion. - Personnel of government agencies which are exempted by law from the coverage of R.A. No. 6758, as amended, are not entitled to the compensation adjustments authorized herein.

Section 3. Fund Source. - The amounts necessary to implement the compensation adjustments authorized herein shall be sourced, as follows:

- a. For NGAs, including SUCs, the amount shall be charged against the appropriate fund source under R.A. No. 9498, the FY 2008 General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amounts as are needed shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
- b. For GOCCs, the funds required shall be charged against their respective corporate funds. The use of funds for the purpose shall be subject to the approval of their respective governing boards in accordance with applicable laws. GOCCs which do not have adequate or sufficient funds to pay the salary adjustments authorized herein shall partially implement the adjusted rates: Provided, That any partial implementation shall be at a uniform percentage increase for all positions.
- c. For LGUs, the funds required shall be charged against their respective local government funds. The use of funds for the purpose shall be subject to the approval of their respective *sanggunian* pursuant to R.A. No. 7160 and other relevant statutes. LGUs which do not have adequate or sufficient funds to pay the salary adjustments authorized herein shall partially implement the adjusted rates: Provided, That any partial implementation shall be at a uniform percentage increase for all positions.

Section 4. Allowances and Benefits Based on a Percentage of the Basic Salary and Base Pay of Government Personnel. - Except for the year-end bonus, longevity pay for military and uniformed personnel, government counterpart to the Retirement and Life Insurance Premiums, PAG-I.B.I.G. Contributions, PHILHEALTH Contributions and Employees Compensation Insurance Premiums, all allowances and benefits which are computed at a percentage of salary or base pay shall not be increased notwithstanding the ten percent (10%) salary and base pay increase authorized in this Executive Order.

Section 5. Applicability to Certain Constitutional Officials. - The salary increase authorized herein for the President, Vice-President, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives shall take effect only after the expiration of the respective terms of office of the incumbents pursuant to Section 10 of Article VI and Section 6 of Article VII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

Section 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DBM shall prepare and issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Executive Order.

Section 7. Effectivity. - The compensation adjustments authorized herein shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

Manila, Philippines, 01 May 2008.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

References: Annexes “A” and “B”

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). [*Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 720

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT-NONGOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP IN THE
ACCREDITATION OF DONEE INSTITUTIONS RELATIVE TO THE TAX DEDUCTIBILITY OF
CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER SECTION 34(H) OF THE NATIONAL
INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED**

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the government to encourage public-private partnership in nation-building, and in particular, to strengthen its role in the improvement of tax administration and taxpayer compliance towards the attainment of fiscal stability and growth;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8424 or the “Tax Reform Act of 1997” amended the national Internal Revenue Code, specifically, Title II Chapter VII Section 34(H) by providing that charitable contributions or gifts made to accredited domestic corporation or associations organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, youth and sports development, cultural or education purposes or for the rehabilitation of veterans, or to social welfare institutions, or to nongovernment organizations, in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Finance, upon recommendation of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, shall be allowed as deductible business expenses for income tax purposes,

WHEREAS, to implement the foregoing provision whose underlying objective is to institute a tax administration control tool in the form of an innovative mechanism which would help the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to ensure that only legitimate donations are claimed as deductible expenses, a system of accreditation of domestic corporations or associations or non-government organizations (NGOs) to determine their qualifications as donee institutions has been established, initially, through a Memorandum of Agreement between the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) and the Department of Finance (DOF) signed on January 29, 1998 and formally, through Revenue Regulations No. 13-98 issued by the BIR on December 8, 1998;

WHEREAS, the government recognizes that mobilizing the nongovernment sector would promote transparency and accountability in evaluating, accrediting and monitoring donee institutions, being direct beneficiaries of contributions from donor institutions or individuals;

WHEREAS, the PCNC, which has been designated to establish and operationalize a system of accreditation, is a private, voluntary, non-stock, non-profit corporation established by six of the country’s largest national NGO networks, namely, the Caucus of Development NGO Networks, the Philippine Business for Social Progress, the Association of Foundations, the Bishops-Businessmen Conference for Human Development, the National Confederation of Cooperatives, and the National Council for Social Development, whose objective is to encourage private sector participation in social development;

WHEREAS, to further strengthen the accreditation system, the composition of the PCNC Board of Trustees, which acts upon technical evaluation of an application for donee institution and recommends its registration to the BIR as a qualified donee institution, should be broadened to include, in addition to the DOF or BIR representative, representatives from other concerned government agencies whose mandates or functions involve regulation or coordination or partnering with respective NGOs;

WHEREAS, there is a need to modify, accordingly, Executive Order No. 671 which was issued on October 22, 2007;

NOW THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by Constitution, do hereby order and direct the following:

SECTION 1. A stronger, more effective government-private sector partnership is herein instituted within the accreditation system for donee institutions for purposes of the deductibility of charitable contributions as a business expense for income tax purposes under Section 34(H) of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), as amended.

SECTION 2. The PCNC as Accrediting Entity and Its Obligations. The PCNC, duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, shall be the government's partner in a system of accreditation, to determine the qualification of domestic corporations or associations or NGOs organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, youth and sports development, cultural or educational purposes, or for the rehabilitation of veterans, or to NGOs for accreditation as donee institutions. No corporations, associations, or NGOs however shall be processed for accreditation by the PCNC unless it has secured a valid registration with the government agency that exercises regulatory function over such corporation, association or NGO.

In doing so, the PCNC shall comply with the existing standards and guidelines set by the DOF, through the BIR, relative to the accreditation of non-stock, non-profit corporations/NGOs as provided for in Revenue Regulations No. 13-98. The PCNC shall also be guided by the standards and guidelines of other government departments or agencies exercising regulatory functions over such corporations/NGOs, such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

In line with the mutual objectives of transparency and accountability in public-private partnership, the PCNC shall submit to its Board of Trustees periodic reports of its operations, particularly, its receipts and expenses incurred in the conduct of its mandate as the government accrediting entity. As a non-stock, non-profit entity, the PCNC shall comply with existing rules governing tax-exempt organizations such as the filing of an annual information return to the BIR.

SECTION 3. Composition of the PCNC Board of Trustees. In addition to its present membership which includes the DOF or BIR representative, the PCNC Board of Trustees shall include the Department of Social and Welfare Development (DSWD). Other government representative/s may likewise sit in the PCNC Board of Directors, on a case-to-case basis and depending on the subject for deliberation.

SECTION 4. Certification of Donee Institution Status. The responsibility of granting certification for donee institution status remains veritably with the Department of Finance, specifically, the BIR, which shall issue a Certificate of Registration as Qualified Donee Institution.

SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The DOF, through the BIR, in coordination and in consultation with the concerned government agencies shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Executive Order.

SECTION 6. Transitory Provision - All corporations, associations, NGOs that have been granted qualified donee institution status, prior to the issuance of this Executive Order, shall remain as Qualified Donee Institution until its expiration as stated in their respective Certificate of Registrations.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. Executive Order No. 671, issued on October 22, 2007, and all executive orders and administrative issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby deemed repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. If any portion of this Order is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions of this Order shall not be affected, and shall remain in force.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. This order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 11th day of April, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 721
ENCOURAGING LARGE CORPORATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR
RICE REQUIREMENTS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, there are global clouds on the horizon that are driving up the price of oil and food, particularly rice;

WHEREAS, on the issue of rice management, this is a global problem that this Administration has seen coming, and has worked to head off for some time now;

WHEREAS, this Administration's response is based on three fundamental needs:

1. To ensure supply of rice;
2. To make sure distribution of rice gets to the people who need it most, efficiently and cost-effectively;
3. To be vigilant that unscrupulous vendors do not divert subsidized rice and sell it as commercial rice.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the law, do hereby order that:

1. For a period of time to be recommended by the National Food Authority, hereinafter referred to as NFA, but in no case less than two years from the effectivity of this Order, the NFA shall encourage large corporations to provide for rice requirements of their employees in either of the following ways:
 - a. By engaging in the production of rice as herein-after provided;
 - b. By importing rice to meet requirements.
2. For purposes of this Order, large corporations shall refer to all corporations existing under Philippines laws with at least five hundred (500) employees, provided that said corporations report earnings over the last four years that will allow them to engage in the production or importation of rice for their employees' requirements without affecting their financial viability. The NFA shall generate a list of the large corporations who shall be encouraged as stated above.
3. Those corporations with existing landholdings determined to be suitable for rice production by the NFA, and who decide to engage in such production shall be encouraged to engage in such production within a period of time deemed desirable by the NFA.

Those without landholdings who decide to engage in such production may commence to do so at any time, and for this purpose, all such corporations may lease public agricultural lands or, subject to mutual agreement with the landowner, idle agricultural lands.

Those corporations who decide to import rice shall signify to the NFA their intention to do so and shall be governed in such importation by law.

For this purpose, large corporations may register with the NFA at any time during the effectivity of this Order.

4. All importations undertaken under this Order shall be coursed through the NFA, and shall be eligible for fiscal privileges within the authority of the NFA to provide. However, the NFA may charge reasonable fees for services rendered for such importation.
5. Any production or rice in excess of employees' consumption requirements, resulting from rice production activities which corporations shall engage in as encouraged by the NFA, shall be certified to by the NFA and may be sold in local markets.
6. The NFA, upon consultation with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Board of Investments, and the Department of Finance, shall develop a package of fiscal or non-fiscal incentives as may be allowed by law for the effective implementation of this Order.
7. Nothing in this Order shall prevent large corporations from tendering into any agreement or other forms of combinations among themselves for the purpose of engaging in the production and/or importation of rice, whenever the circumstances shall warrant.
8. Moral suasion, not compulsion, shall be applied on large corporations to carry out the purposes of this Order.
9. This Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 2nd day of May, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and eight.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 721-A
AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 721 ENTITLED “ENCOURAGING LARGE
CORPORATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR RICE REQUIREMENTS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES”

WHEREAS, there are global clouds on the horizon that are driving up the price of oil and food, particularly rice;

WHEREAS, the issue of rice management is a global concern that this Administration has seen coming, and it has worked to head off for some time now;

WHEREAS, this Administration’s response to the global rice issue is based on ensuring the supply of rice, making sure that distribution of rice gets to the people who need it most, efficiently and cost-effectively, and being vigilant against unscrupulous vendors, who divert subsidized rice and sell it as commercial rice.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the power vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. For a period to be recommended by the Department of Agriculture (DA), but in no case less than two years from the effectivity of this Executive Order, large corporations shall be encouraged to provide the rice requirements of their respective employees either by engaging in the production of rice as hereafter provided, or by importing rice to meet the requirements.

SECTION 2. For purposes of this Executive Order, large corporations shall pertain to corporations duly organized and existing under Philippine laws that have five hundred (500) employees or more, provided that, said corporations have reported profit in the last four years before this Executive Order, and they can engage in the production or importation of the rice requirements of their employees without substantially affecting their financial viability.

The National Food Authority (NFA) is hereby ordered to generate a list of the large corporations, as defined herein.

SECTION 3. Large corporations with existing landholdings determined to be suitable for rice production by the DA that decide to engage in said production shall be encouraged to do so, within a period to be determined by the DA.

Large corporations without landholdings for rice production that decide to engage in rice production, pursuant to this Executive Order, may engage in rice production and may lease public agricultural lands or idle agricultural lands, subject to the agreement of the landowner thereof.

Large corporations that decide to import rice shall signify their intention to do so with the NFA and shall be governed in such importation by law.

For purposes of this Section, large corporations may register with the NFA at any time during the effectivity of this Executive Order.

SECTION 4. Rice importations pursuant to this Executive Order shall be coursed through the NFA and shall be eligible for fiscal privileges, within the authority of the NFA to provide. However, the NFA may charge reasonable fees for services rendered for such importation.

SECTION 5. Any rice production, pursuant to this Executive Order, which is in excess of the consumption requirements of the employees of a subject large corporation, may be sold in the local markets.

SECTION 6. The DA, upon consultation with the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Board of Investments, and the Department of Finance, shall develop a package of fiscal or non-fiscal incentives, as may be allowed by law, for the effective implementation of this Executive Order.

SECTION 7. Large corporations may enter into any agreement or form associations for the purpose of engaging in rice production pursuant to this Executive Order.

SECTION 8. The DA shall formulate and issue Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Executive Order in consultation with concerned government agencies and the private sector.

SECTION 9. Moral suasion and not compulsion shall be applied to the large corporations in carrying out the purposes of this Executive Order.

SECTION 10. Executive Order No. 721 is hereby amended and superseded by this Executive Order.

SECTION 11. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila this 3rd day of November, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 722
EXTENDING FURTHER THE DURATION OF OPERATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MIDDLE
EAST PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE (PMEPC) TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008

I, **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order, in view of volatile political situation in the Middle East, the extension of the duration of the operations of the Presidential Middle East Preparedness Committee (PMEPC) to 30 September 2008 or unless otherwise directed by the President.

The Committee shall be provided with a funding allocation of Three Million Pesos (P3,000,000.00) for its administrative and operational expenses to be taken from the President's Contingency Fund. Additional financial requirements that may be needed by the Committee shall be sourced out by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) from available funds of the concerned PMEPC member-agencies, subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

All other rules, regulations and issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this **9th** day of **May**, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 723

RELEASE OF THE AMOUNT OF TWELVE BILLION FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX MILLION NINE HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT THOUSAND PESOS (P12,576,938,000.00) FOR THE INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT DIFFERENCE DUE TO THE REENACTMENT OF THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACTS IN FISCAL YEARS 2001 AND 2004

WHEREAS, Section 6 of Article X of the Constitution and Section 284 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 mandates that LGUs shall have a share in the national internal revenue taxes which shall be automatically released to them;

WHEREAS, due to the reenactment of the FYs 2000 and 2003 General Appropriations Acts in FYs 2001 and 2004, respectively, a total amount of P12,576,938,000.00 in Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) shares of LGUs was not released;

WHEREAS, the unreleased IRA amount corresponds to the difference between the National Expenditure Program levels computed according to the formula prescribed in R.A. No. 7160 and the appropriations for IRA under the reenacted budgets for FYs 2001 and 2004;

WHEREAS, in accordance with the above constitutional and statutory mandates, the IRA differential of P12,576,938,000.00 can be released without disrupting the fiscal and deficit targets of the country and thereby maintain macroeconomic stability.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. RELEASE OF THE IRA DIFFERENTIAL IN CYS 2001 AND 2004. The Departments of Finance, Budget and Management and Interior of Local Government shall take the necessary steps to ensure that the LGUs get their respective shares from the P12,576,938,000.00 unreleased IRA differential for FYs 2001 and 2004 either on installment basis for a period of seven (7) years starting FY 2009 up to FY 2015, or avail in advance their respective shares from the unreleased IRA through a monetization program.

SECTION 2, IRA MONETIZATION PROGRAM. The IRA Monetization Program (IMP) will give LGUs the option to collect in advance from the trustee banks their respective shares from the P12.5 billion IRA differential at a discounted value, net of interest and other charges.

SECTION 3. RESPONSIBILITIES.

A. Department of Budget and Management. The DBM shall:

1. Determine the share of each LGU from the P12,576,938,000.00 unreleased IRA differential on the basis of the formula prescribed in R.A. No. 7160 and issue the corresponding Notice of Payment Schedule (NPS) to inform the LGUs of their share and the schedule of payment.

2. Compute the LGU shares based on the status of the LGUs existing in FYs 2001 and 2004. Conversions or creations of LGUs after FYs 2001 and 2004 respectively shall not be considered in the computation for the said years.

B. Department of Finance. The DOF shall:

1. Provide the confirmation letter of the National Government to acknowledge that the P12,576,938,000.00 constitutes an obligation of the Republic of the Philippines.
2. Favorably endorse to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and other regulatory agencies, as the case may be, the application to secure the necessary financial features for the investment certificates that may be issued to improve the net proceeds to the beneficiaries.
3. Open the necessary Special Trust with the trustee banks.
4. Make available the facilities of the Bureau of the Treasury, including but not limited to, the Registry of Scripless Securities (RoSS), the Automated Debt Auction Processing System (ADAPS), and such other facilities as may be required and necessary for the auctioning process and the implementation of the IRA Monetization Program.

C. Department of the Interior and Local Government. The DILG shall provide assistance to the LGUs that will participate in the IRA Monetization Program and shall consolidate and submit to the DOF the relevant Subscription Agreement, if any, and the corresponding Sanggunian Resolution executed by the LGUs concerned that will state, among others, the Special Purpose Trust (SPT) to be constituted and designated, the authority of head of the LGU to bind the LGU for the IMP participation; and the trustee bank that will receive the proceeds of the monetized IRA.

D. Government Financial Institutions. The government financial institutions (GFIs) designated for this undertaking shall serve as trustee banks for purposes of receiving the proceeds of monetized IRA shares of LGUs. A Special Trust Account shall be established by the LGUs with the GFIs for the purpose. All transactions relative to the IRA Monetization Program shall be undertaken in accordance with the existing accounting, auditing and budgeting rules and regulations. A list of LGUs that availed of the IMP shall be submitted to the DBM.

E. Local Government Units. LGUs that will participate in the IMP shall accomplish and submit the pertinent documents required herein. The utilization of funds shall be in accordance with accounting, auditing, budgeting and procurement rules and regulations.

F. Commission on Audit. The COA shall provide guidelines in the recording of the obligation in the books of account of the National Government.

SECTION 4. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If any section or provision of this Executive Order shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVITY. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 12th day of MAY, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 724**REORGANIZING CERTAIN FUNCTIONS WITHIN THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS TO MAKE IT
MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE INTENSIFIED ANTI-SMUGGLING
THRUSTS OF THE GOVERNMENT**

WHEREAS, the present set up in the Bureau of Customs (BOC), where the prosecution function is being exercised by various offices, units, divisions as well as *ad hoc* bodies in the said bureau, diminishes the effectivity of the anti-smuggling drive/campaign of the government;

WHEREAS, to ensure success in the anti-smuggling effort of the government, there is need to transfer, consolidate and reorganize the prosecution functions of various divisions, offices and/or units to the Prosecution and Litigation Division (PLD), Legal Service (LS) of the BOC;

WHEREAS, Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of EO 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, expressly grants the President the continuing authority to reorganize the executive branch of the government.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Affected Offices.* This Order covers the Investigation and Prosecution Division (IPD), Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS), Internal Inquiry and Prosecution Division (IIPD-CIIS), certain offices or units under the Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence and Enforcement Group, Director of Enforcement and Security Services (ESS), the Prosecution and Litigation Division (PLD), Legal Service (LS) and the Office of the Commissioner (OCOM). Unless otherwise specifically mentioned in this Order, no other authority, function or task organic to those above mentioned offices shall be affected.

SEC. 2. *Transfer of Functions.* The following functions are hereby transferred to the corresponding Offices indicated opposite their names:

NAME OF OFFICE/FUNCTION	FROM	TO
1. Prosecution Function (Criminal/ Administrative)	IPD/CIIS IIPD/CIIS ESS	PLD-LS
2. Review, Evaluation and Processing of Claims for Rewards Function	RRD/LS	OCOM

SEC. 3. *Operational Provisions.* The following provisions shall be observed to promote the smooth transfer of functions:

1. *IIPD/IPD and other Offices/Units.* All case folders, files and documents of IIPD/IPD and of other Offices/Units shall be transferred to the PLD-LS upon proper turn-over thereof. As an

initial step, all case folders, files and/or records shall be inventoried, docketed and cataloged before the same are turned-over to the Director, LS.

2. *Review and Processing of Reward Claims.*

- a. The Commissioner of Customs shall issue the corresponding order constituting the Rewards Committee in the OCOM which shall have the following functions:
 - i. *Maintain the Informant's Logbook.* The Informant's Logbook is hereby ordered transferred from the CIIS to the Committee on Rewards.
 - ii. *Receive Information.* The Committee on Rewards shall receive and safe-keep all informant's affidavits of information and all other relevant documents required in the processing of reward claims.
 - iii. *Process claims for rewards.* The Committee on rewards shall process, discuss, deliberate, evaluate and recommend to the Commissioner of Customs all claims for rewards, including the issue of preference, amounts and all issues relative to claims of rewards.
 - iv. Study and propose measures to automate claims for rewards including the BOC-DOF interface on reward matters.
 - v. Organize a Secretariat which shall carry on the daily business of the Committee on Rewards.

SEC. 4. *Budgetary Requirements.* (1) The amount of Php2,000,000.00 is hereby allocated from the funds of the Bureau of Customs as a one-time expense for the inventory, cataloguing and eventual transfer of case folders, files and other documents of the IIPD, IPD and other Offices, units or *ad hoc* bodies to the PLD-LS.

(2) The amount of Php5,000,000.00 is hereby allocated from the funds of the Bureau of Customs as initial fund for the establishment of the Committee on Rewards to cover expenses such as but not limited to setting up of office and other costs related thereto including repair of office space, office furniture and furnishings, air-conditioning machines, photocopiers, personal computers, computer peripherals and other equipment; and for the day to day functions of the office such as office supplies and consumables; and for the general expenses of the Committee on Rewards such as traveling and other expenses.

Thereafter, such funds as may be necessary for the functions of the Committee shall be included in the annual appropriations of the Bureau of Customs.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Executive Order is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue in force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Repeal.* All executive orders, rule, regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order, are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Administrative Sanctions.* Failure to follow the directives of this Executive Order within 30 days from effectivity thereof shall subject concerned officials to administrative sanctions pursuant to existing laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila this 16th day of May, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 725

DIRECTING AND AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO MANAGE AND COORDINATE ALL EFFORTS OF RELEVANT AGENCIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS TO ADOPT MEASURES TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE CURRENT WORLD RICE SUPPLY SHORTAGE

WHEREAS, there are global clouds on the horizon that are driving up the price of oil and food, particularly rice;

WHEREAS, the first obligation and commitment of government is to put food on the table in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the rise of agricultural prices is a global problem and all must work together to resolve it and to help prevent any global food crisis in the longer term;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to intensify efforts to carry out the aforementioned policy;

WHEREAS, there is a need to manage and coordinate relevant agencies of the Executive Department, government financial institutions and government owned and controlled corporations in the implementation of measures aimed at addressing challenges related to rice prices and supply;

NOW THEREFORE I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE. – The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby mandated to coordinate and oversee all government efforts on the issue of rice management.

SECTION 2. RICE MANAGEMENT. – The response to the issue of rice management shall be based on three fundamental needs:

1. To ensure supply,
2. To make sure distribution of rice gets to the people who need it most, efficiently and cost-effectively; and
3. To be vigilant that unscrupulous traders do not price gouge and exploit the situation.

SECTION 3. SUPPLY. - To ensure supply, the Secretary of Agriculture is hereby mandated to coordinate and oversee the following government efforts:

1. Reaching out to Thailand, Vietnam and others to increase the national security stock, and seek the advise of those with actual experience and specialization in the commodity and its free market;
2. Implementation of the Philippine Productivity Rice Master Plan, copy of which is hereto attached as Annex A, and which is hereby approved for immediate implementation;
3. Adoption and implementation by the Land Bank of the Philippines and other Government Financial Institutions (GFIs) such as but not limited to the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Government Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) such as but not limited to

the People's Credit and Finance Corporation, the National Development Corporation and Livecor. To this end, the Land Bank and other GFIs shall adopt the necessary board resolutions authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture or his specifically designated representative to provide on their behalf credit facilities to qualified farmers and farmers' organizations, which credit facilities shall be used to increase and improve rice production;

4. Entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the local government units, the GFIs, the countryside financial institutions and other private organizations in order to address the current rice supply shortage and to arrest the effects of increases in the price of oil-based inputs through a rationalized financing scheme that will be made available to the farmers and farmers' cooperatives for the purchase of inputs at the lowest possible cost.

SECTION 4. DISTRIBUTION. – To make sure distribution of rice gets to the people who need it most, efficiently and cost-effectively, the Secretary of Agriculture is hereby mandated to coordinate and oversee the following, government efforts:

1. Distribution through churches and faith organizations;
2. Distribution through schools;
3. Distribution through the government's own network.

SECTION 5. ENFORCEMENT. – To be vigilant against unscrupulous traders who price gouge and exploit the situation, the Secretary of Agriculture shall be assisted by a Task Force on Rice Enforcement. Anyone caught robbing the people of rice shall be sanctioned to the full extent of the law.

SECTION 6. FUNDING. – The relevant agencies of the Executive Department, GOCCs and GFIs shall share the costs of rice management, according to their respective mandates and roles, and/or as may be agreed among themselves.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVITY. – This Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 15th day of May, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE PHILIPPINES
MALACANANG

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 726

TRANSFERRING THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the State to protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples to their ancestral domains to ensure their economic, social and cultural well being and to recognize the applicability of customary laws governing property rights of relations in determining the ownership and extent of ancestral domain;

WHEREAS, the State recognizes, respects and protects the rights of indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions and institutions;

WHEREAS, National Commission On Indigenous Peoples was created by Republic Act No. 8371 entitled AN ACT TO RECOGNIZE, PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES/ INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, CREATING THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, ESTABLISHING IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES;

WHEREAS, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples was placed under the Department of Agrarian Reform by Executive Order No. 364 entitled TRANSFORMING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND REFORM on September 27, 2004;

WHEREAS, there is a continuing need to remain vigilant in protecting the rights and guaranteeing the respect for the cultural integrity of indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples, and ensuring that all members of indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples benefit on an equal footing from the rights and opportunities which national laws and regulations grant to other members of the population;

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is mandated to be the primary agency responsible for the conservation, management, development, and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources and one of its objectives is to conserve specific terrestrial and marine areas representative of the Philippine natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations and one of its powers is the preservation of cultural and natural heritage through wildlife conservation and segregation of national parks and other protected areas;

WHEREAS, Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution provides that the President shall have control of all executive departments, bureaus and offices and shall ensure that all laws be faithfully executed;

WHEREAS, paragraph 2, Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of Executive Order No. 292 grants the President the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President and the power to transfer any function under the Office of the President to any other Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA-MACAPAGAL – ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Placement under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples is hereby placed under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

SECTION 2. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **23rd** day of **May**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 727
UPGRADING THE PORTS OF LIMAY AND MARIVELES AS A PRINCIPAL PORT OF ENTRY
PURSUANT TO SECTION 702 OF THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE
OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, the upgrading of the Ports of Limay and Mariveles into a Customs Principal Port of Entry will complement efforts to accelerate further not just the economic growth but the total development of Bataan and its outlying Special Economic Zone;

WHEREAS, upgrading the status of the Ports of Limay and Mariveles into a principal port of entry will enable said port to avail of the manpower complement and other resources from national government agencies such as the Bureau of Customs, thereby hastening infrastructure and systems development which will result in the port gaining more investors and other locators;

WHEREAS, the expansion of economic activity within the port requires that the Port of Limay be accorded the status as a principal port of entry;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. *Upgrading of the Port of Limay and Mariveles opening them as a Principal Port of Entry.* – The present Ports of Limay and Mariveles are hereby opened and declared as a principal port of entry to be known as the District Port of Limay and Mariveles.

Section 2. *Authority of the Commissioner of Customs to define the jurisdictional limits of the Collection district affected.* – The Commissioner of Customs, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Finance pursuant to Section 701 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP), as amended, is hereby authorized to redefine the jurisdictional boundaries of the Port of Manila and to delineate the jurisdictional limits of the new principal port of entry which shall become Customs Collection District No. XVI to be known as the District Port of Limay and Mariveles.

Collection District XVI of the District Port of Limay and Mariveles shall have jurisdiction over the entire province of Bataan and such other areas as shall be added by the Commissioner of Customs, excluding the area covered by the SBMA-Bataan created under Republic Act No. 7227, Proclamation No. 984 and Executive Order No. 381 and other laws appurtenant thereto. It shall have the Port of Mariveles as its Sub-port.

Section 3. *Authority of the Commissioner of Customs to designate the officials of the port of Limay and Mariveles.* – The new Collection District No. XVI also known as District Port of Limay and Mariveles, shall be headed by a Customs Collector V, to be assisted by such Deputy Collectors of Customs as may be determined and designated by the Commissioner of Customs. The Sub-port of Mariveles under the District Port of Limay and Mariveles shall be likewise headed by a Port Collector, to be assisted by such Deputy Collectors of Customs as may be determined and designated by the Commissioner of Customs.

Section 4. *Implementing Authority.* – Subject to the approval of the Secretary of Finance, the Commissioner of Customs is hereby authorized to determine the personnel requirements of the District Port of Limay and Mariveles, taking into account the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. He may, subject to applicable Civil Service rules and regulations, issue the needed orders to effect the transfer or movement of personnel from any organizational unit of the Bureau to the Port of Limay and Mariveles, or create new positions therefor. For this purpose the new personnel complement shall be deemed integrated in the Rationalization Plan of the Bureau.

Section 5. *Appropriations.* – Funds for the initial operations of the District Port of Limay and Mariveles shall be drawn from the available funds of the Bureau of Customs and subsequent appropriations shall be incorporated into its budget proposals, subject to existing budgeting, accounting and auditing laws and procedures.

Section 6. *Effectivity.* – This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila, this **26th** day of **May**, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). [*Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830*]. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 728
ENSURING TOP-LEVEL ATTENTION AND PRIORITY ACTION ON
FOOD AND ENERGY NEEDS OF THE NATION

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the government to ensure that every Filipino shall have food on their table especially the poorer sector of the society;

WHEREAS, parallel with the programs on food security, the government is also giving equal importance to the energy needs of the nation, including power sector reforms;

WHEREAS, there is a need to create a council that will give top-level attention and priority action on food and energy needs of the nation;

WHEREAS, Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution provides that the President shall have control of all executive departments, bureaus and offices and shall ensure that all laws be faithfully executed;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL- ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the law, do hereby order the following:

Section 1. – There is hereby created the National Food and Energy Council (NFEC or Council).

Section 2. – The NFEC is tasked with assessing the food and energy situation and prospects, and formulating, coordinating, undertaking, monitoring and/or adjusting major national long-term policies, programs and project as measures to ensure adequate, competitively priced supplies of food and energy for the nation, especially the very poor.

Section 3. – The Council shall include the President as Chair, the NEDA Secretary as Vice-Chair, the Secretaries of DA, DENR, DOE, NAPC, NSC and the NPC, PNOC, NFA heads as members.

Section 4. – The heads of relevant committees in Congress and representatives of sectoral groups, academe and other non-government organizations, may be invited as full members or observers.

Section 5. – The Council shall, among its other functions, make a five-year projection of supply, demand and prices of essential foodstuffs and energy sources, to be adjusted periodically, and with the targeted impact of policy actions incorporated in the forecasts.

Section 6. – The Council shall advise the President and Congress if and when the exercise of emergency presidential powers shall be required to address food and energy problems.

Section 7. – The Council on Climate Change, which will discuss similar issues and whose priority will need to be reconciled with food and energy, is hereby absorbed by the NFEC.

SECTION 8. – All other rules, regulations and issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila this 2nd day of June, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 729
ADDING THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, OR A DULY DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE, AS
ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF THE TEACHER EDUCATION COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Presidential Task Force to Assess, Plan and Monitor the Entire Educational System was created pursuant to Executive Order (EO) No. 652 dated August 21, 2007;

WHEREAS, the need to strengthen existing mechanisms to complement the role of the Presidential Task Force for Education is necessary in synchronizing and harmonizing the entire education system;

WHEREAS, the Teacher Education Council (TEC) was created pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 7784, while the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) was created pursuant to RA No. 7796;

WHEREAS, there is a need to include the technical-vocational sector of education to the TEC and to educate and train technical-vocational teachers of unquestionable integrity and competence;

WHEREAS, Section 19, Book III, Title I, Chapter 7 and Section 31, Book III, Title III, Chapter 10 of EO No. 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, recognizes the residual powers and the continuing authority of the President to reorganize.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby reorganize the Teacher Education Council, by adding the Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), or his duly designated representative, as member thereof.

All executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **4th** day of **June**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**

Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 730
ADDING TWO (2) PRIVATE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD OF ADVISERS OF THE
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the Presidential Task Force to Assess, Plan and Monitor the Entire Educational System was created pursuant to Executive Order (EO) No. 652 dated August 21, 2007;

WHEREAS, the need to strengthen existing mechanisms to complement the role of the Presidential Task Force for Education is necessary in synchronizing and harmonizing the entire education system;

WHEREAS, Republic Act (RA) No. 7722, otherwise known as the Higher Education Act of 1994, created the Commission on Higher Education, and provided the composition of its Board of Advisers in Section 7 thereof;

WHEREAS, there is a need to add two (2) new members to the composition of the Board of Advisers;

WHEREAS, Section 19, Book III, Title I, Chapter 7 and Section 31, Book III, Title III, Chapter 10 of EO No. 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, recognizes the residual powers and the continuing authority of the President to reorganize.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby reorganize the Board of Advisers of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), by adding two (2) private representatives thereto.

All executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this **4th** day of **June**, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President:
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 731
ACTIVATING AND REORGANIZING THE ENERGY OPERATIONS BOARD INTO THE
ENERGY CONTINGENCY TASK FORCE UNDER THE NATIONAL
FOOD AND ENERGY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Energy Operations Board was created under Executive Order (EO) No. 442 dated September 11, 1990;

WHEREAS, there are global clouds on the horizon that are driving up the cost of oil and food;

WHEREAS, the National Food and Energy Council was created under EO No. 728 (NFEC or Council) date June 2, 2008;

WHEREAS, EO No. 728 mandated the absorption of the Council of Climate Change by the NFEC;

NOW, THEREFORE I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Energy Operations Board is hereby activated and reorganized as the Energy Contingency Task Force (ECTF), hereinafter referred to as the Task Force, under the National Food and Energy Council.

SECTION 2. The Task Force shall be composed of the following:

- a. Executive Secretary as head;
- b. Secretary of Energy as operations officer;
- c. Secretary of Trade and Industry as member;
- d. Secretary of Budget and Management as member;
- e. Secretary of Science and Technology as member;
- f. Secretary of Social Welfare and Development as member;
- g. Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority as member;
- h. Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education as member;
- i. Director General of the Philippine Information Agency as member;
- j. Commander of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines as member.

SECTION 3. The Task Force shall be responsible for formulating plans and policies and ensuring their implementation to address the impact of the rising cost of oil on the majority of the people.

SECTION 4. The primary responsibilities of the members of the Task Force shall be as follows:

- a. The Executive Secretary shall provide overall leadership and oversight in the formulation and implementation of the plans and policies of the Task Force.

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- b. The Secretary of Energy shall be the chief operating officer of the Task Force and provide it with the Secretariat and administrative support. He shall monitor oil prices and ensure the implementation of energy efficiency, conservation and other mitigating measures.
 - c. The Secretary of Trade and Industry shall monitor the impact of oil prices on the commodities purchased by the majority of the people and ensure the implementation of mitigation measures.
 - d. The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development shall identify the beneficiaries of targeted subsidies for the poor and facilitate the timely distribution of the subsidies such as the KATAS ng VAT – Pantawid Koryente Program.
 - e. The Secretary of Budget and Management shall ensure that the proper budgetary allocation for the projects of the Task Force are provided, especially the additional VAT and additional Malampaya royalties from higher energy prices.
 - f. The Philippine Information Agency shall be responsible for information, education, communication and advocacy campaigns of the Task Force.
 - g. The Secretary of Science and Technology, in coordination with the Department of Energy, shall assist agencies, establishments and households install and/or adopt other energy saving technology.
 - h. The National Economic and Development Authority shall assist the Secretary of Energy in projecting oil price levels and shall formulate mitigation plans and policies for adoption and implementation by the Task Force, including various Katas ng VAT and KATAS ng Malampaya programs.
 - i. The Commission on Higher Education shall provide students loans and scholarships under the KATAS ng VAT – Pantawid Pag-Aral Program.
 - j. The Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces shall issue timely intelligence assessment of political and security developments related to the oil price issue and alert government offices on the same. It shall provide advice on matters affecting national security.

SECTION 5. The respective primary responsibilities of the departments mentioned in Section 4 shall extend, as applicable, down to the regional, subregional levels, including the provincial and city levels. The Task Force may organize Task Groups at various levels.

Local government officials may be invited to join the Task Groups if they so desire.

SECTION 6. Task Force may call upon other government departments and agencies for assistance and support for the implementation of the objectives of this EO.

SECTION 7. All issuances, orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with, or contrary to, the provisions of this EO are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. This EO shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 7th day of June, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (2008). *[Executive Order Nos.: 701 - 830]*. Manila: Malacañang Records Office.



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sits down for a brief three-on-one media interview with the local press at the Showroom of the Sidlakang Negros Village in Dumaguete City.

